THE SPELL OF THE RHUNES BY PRADIER & PLUMAIL! PLUS TRILLO, GIORELLO AND MUCH MORE!

HEAVY METAL

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THE ADULT ILLUSTRATED FANTASY MAGAZINE

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◀ Illustration by Matt Wilson
To see more of Matt's work, check out his website at www.mattwilsonart.com

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

NO, it's not a rumor - - it is in the air (can you smell it?) - - so thick you can almost taste it - - hair and all - - with those... those... those... big... sharp... pointy green and yellow teeth - - ARRGGHHHH! Are you ready? Because - - YES it is the summer time CONVENTION SEASON!!!

There are great shows here and there throughout the year, but I love the summer shows- especially the San Diego Comic Con! (August 1st to August 4th). Four days, thousands of dealers, and fifty thousand fans/collectors - - (think of the convention scenes from "Galaxy Quest" if you've never been, but add 22 members of the official and only, "Spork Club!") - - most of which come by our table to get Howard's autograph, and see me hung over.

Some of the best times I've had in my life have been at that show (at least that is what I'm told after I get bailed out of jail on Sunday night) and this year should be no exception because... SIMON BISLEY'S COMING! The only thing that could be cooler than that would be if LUIS ROYO was coming... YES, dreams do come true kids, and Mr. Royo will be there! We'll also have a bunch of our Heavy Metal posse coming by, some to visit, some to sign- - and I'll be sure to give you a final list and some signing times in the next issue. DON'T MISS IT!

We've also decided to attend the exceptionally cool "New York Sci-Fi & Fantasy Convention" at Madison Square Garden this year, from the June 30th - - we'll be one of the sponsors, and we'll be giving away like 5,000 Heavy Metal 2000 toys. Come on by and say "Hi" if you're in town.

Now let's see what's in this issue... First off, the last time I saw the incredibly talented Dorian was at a piece in LA called "Crazy Girls" - - Simon and I went in looking for directions because we were lost... and then decided to have a quick soda... So, in walks Dorian and then we accidentally have 33 shots, end up with new tattoos, and somewhere around 5 a.m. I promise to put him back on the cover AND in the gallery. Glad I did - - and welcome back, Buddy!

Speaking of talented guys, we've got the second artist in our new "Featured Artist" section- and I just LOVE this piece he did just for us! His name is Matt Wilson, and I hope you get a chance to check out more of his work on his web-site, www.mattwilsonart.com We're looking for more contributors to this new section, so give it a shot gang, and send me some ART!

Okay- - I'm starting to run out of space, so I'll just tell you to enjoy all the great STUFF we packed into another issue. Also, I want to give special thanks to everyone, and, I want to remind you all to check out our ALL NEW website www.metalitv.com and keep those cards and letters coming!

Best wishes,

Kip Eastman

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear H.M.,

First off, I would like to inform you of what a wonderful job it is you do with the magazine. Some of the stories and artwork are simply amazing! That said, I would now like to let you know I am a bit lost at times... Some of the stories make no sense, they are sporadic and interrupted or just do not seem to make connections correctly. Needless to say, this makes reading a story that looks good utterly confusing. Some of the stories have abrupt cutoffs or cut-ins, jumping right to the middle of a story I have not seen before or do not remember, or might not have even appeared in an issue before. As well, some of the graphic novels seem to just end, rather than going on - - "Druuna" is still a mystery to me, and I still want to know what happens next in "24 Hour Man". Thank you, though for keeping "Fistful Of Blood" ongoing. It has been great so far and the artwork is beautiful!

Rollie

Dear Rollie,

Thanks for your note, and I do know what you mean - - I get lost in the stories at times as well. Either short or long, 99.8% of the time I choose a story by it's visual impact "first" and then once it is translated I have the tough choice to run it and let it stand as the creators intended or move on to another. Additionally, many of them run three to four issues, and I run them about a year apart to keep a wide variety in each issue - - I feel very fortunate most of our fans are willing to wait for the next instalment.

As far as "Druuna" goes, I've read all six issues, and still have no idea what is going on - - but for some reason they keep selling out... Glad you liked "24 Hour Man" - - the final instalment will be coming soon!

Dear H.M.,

Have every issue... from 1st to the present... It still has most of what I liked when it first started. Thanks!

Pieter

Dear Pieter,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Dear H.M.,

I am from Riga, Latvia. I'm a painter by profession and I also draw comics. That is why I'm very glad that there exists such an interesting magazine as yours, in which one may see the works of various talented artists. The mastership of these artists has been reflected in drawn fantastical pictures and comics! I would like to express great gratitude to the editorial staff of Heavy Metal and to tell you as well, "you guys are doing great things!"

Ruslan

Dear Ruslan,

It never ceases to amaze me how far away the magazine reaches - - AND this letter was mailed to us, not sent as an e-mail! Thank you for your interest, MOST kind words, and support - - we all wish you luck with your own art career. Why don't you send us some samples of your work - - you might end up inside the magazine (and not just on the letters page).

Dear H.M.,

Just wanted to say how much I've been enjoying your magazine. Very inspirational! "24 Hour Man" rocked! Too bad it had to end. I see you're having fun with "Fistful Of Blood". I have always been a fan of that story from the original "Yojimbo" to the latest "Last Man Standing" but your version is "Heavy Metal Style" - - COOL! I love Pahek's art, very gritty and detailed – BAD ASS! If I'm lucky I will be able to ink as good as him before I die! The picture on the back of my chair is the first page of one of my comics - - someday I hope to be as good as your guys (I know- practice, practice, practice!) Rock on!

Billy

Dear Billy,

Thanks for your note, and first off I want to say how much I liked your art on the back of your letter! You DO have talent, and you have the right attitude (the "practice, practice, practice" part) to end up in the magazine yourself someday. Keep at it.

I thought "24 Hour Man" was a great story as well - - and the creative team (Joe, Young, and Jeff) are nearing the end of the second and final 48 page story. I hope to get it scheduled soon. I first saw the "Yojimbo" story in the "Fistful Of Dollars" film and it was always one of my favorite Clint Eastwood westerns, right below "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly". I saw the original "Yojimbo" later and realized there are cooler dudes than Clint- and I also went to go on record and say I thought Walter Hill and Bruce Willis did a kick-ass adaptation in "Last Man Standing" although it seems the rest of the world hated it. Late one night I watched them all in a row- - and came up with the "Fistful Of Blood" concept, and pitched it to Simon. We had a blast doing it, and have talked about doing it as a live action film someday. We'll see...

Dan Brereton first attracted notice with his bold watercolor in the Eclipse Comics' revival of The Black Terror (1988). The Terror had always been one of what comics historian Ron Goulart christened "The Second Banana Superheroes," despite having one of the coolest looking costumes in comics. Brereton quickly made the Terror his own, attracting a lot of notice in the process. Fans and editors were quick to demand more art from Brereton, and he was only too happy to comply.

Brereton's next major project involved working with his own characters, The Nocturnals, an innovative mix of horror and superhero action, all rendered in Brereton's lush and moody watercolor style. Since the first Nocturnals miniseries for Malibu in 1993, Brereton has continued fleshing out these characters with a string of miniseries and one-shots. The Nocturnals' current home is with Dni Press.

His work on the Vampire Thrillkiller (1997) miniseries for DC made another big splash, inspiring a sequel a year later (Thrillkiller '62), and selling lots of comics in the process. Come with me now for a brief conversation with this uniquely talented writer/artist and learn what's coming next for his east of ghoulish flogsoders...

HM: Dan, describe how you got started as an artist.

BRERETON: I was not quite three when I did my first watercolor, to that what you mean?

Its not like I just started as an artist – I mean, I always was one, before I even knew what it was. And as soon as teachers and family and other grown-ups started calling me an "artist" it eventually stuck in my head that's that's what I was. I've never questioned it, or rather I didn't until I was in art school and would constantly wonder if I had what it took to be a professional once my education was over. I guess once Eclipse hired me to paint the Black Terror, I knew I was in it firmly. The few small jobs before that never led anywhere and always seemed like flukes, until the first painted book. I got that job after showing samples of work I was doing in school for painted comic book pages featuring the Black Terror revamped version they eventually published in an edition I'd met at the Oakland Wonderconvention, back in 88. I guess it was.

HM: What was your first published work?

BRERETON: In comics? I guess it would be the Ramonn back-up serial I penciled, written by Karl Bollack – this was in summer of '88. Eclipse hired me to do that, and afterward, they weren't too impressed with me as a penciller. That experience has colored my perception of myself as a penciller ever since – even though I'm tons better now. It's weird.

HM: How did you get the job of revamping The Black Terror for Eclipse?

BRERETON: Fred Burke, the editor who hired me to do the Ramonn back-up feature in *Merchants Of Death*, kept in touch with me – he was convinced I could handle the Black Terror stuff, and Beau Smith, who worked as the sales guy at Eclipse at the time, was behind my doing the art on the book. It was his idea to take the Golden Age Black terror and revamp him ala the 80's Wiseguy TV show. Once I did the painted sample pages with the character on my own for a semester-long side project in my illustration class) and showed them to Fred and they got passed around, I was hired immediately. This was about three years before the painted comics boom when they were hiring anyone who could hold a brush.

HM: Did you start in comics doing line art before developing your watercolor style?

BRERETON: I gave up on the line art until pretty much after I started working as a painted comics guy – but I would do black and white stuff now and again – I penciled an issue of *Legends of the Dark Knight* – and it came out pretty good – Tim Bradstreet inked it (issue 114) and he did an awesome job. I'm doing a lot more pencilling and inking too now, so I'm slowly overcoming my fear of ink.

HM: How did you come up with the watercolor style that's become your artistic trademark?

BRERETON: It's a combination of trying to conform reality to what's in my head. My natural style is loose and almost cartoony – expressionistic – that's the style I do in my sketchbooks and stuff. When I combine that with the photo reference I shoot so that I can work from life, and watercolor or acrylic, it comes out this hybrid of realism and expressionism. At least that's the closest I can come to describing it. I never planned this; it just came about as a result of my influences and what I try to achieve with my illustration. I've noticed the stuff has gotten more stylized over the years, less fuzzy and soft and sloppy, and more angular and controlled. I kind of miss the loose, more painterly stuff I used to do.

HM: What kind of training have you had?

BRERETON: Four years of art school – the Cabrillo College of Arts and Crafts and The Academy of Art College, both excellent schools in the SF bay area. I studied painting, drawing, illustration.

HM: How did you come up with this character?

BRERETON: It started with the name. Doc Horror was like a pastiche of old pulp characters – and he grew from there. He's a conglomeration of Philip Marlow, Doctor Frankenstein, the Wolf Man and Toshiro Mifune's Yojimbo character, with a few other elements thrown in. Again, not planned this way, but it sort of seems apparent to me now.

HM: Can you describe how you came up with the other main characters in the Nocturnals?

BRERETON: Some of them were around since I was in high school – like Polychrome and Firebeau, and they evolved over the years in sketchbooks and in story ideas I had. Evening or "Halloween Girl", was inspired by my oldest daughter – when she was four she said she wanted to go trick-or-treating as "Halloween girl". She meant something completely different from what I later envisioned, but the idea was planted for this character, a sort of superhero kid who dressed in a Halloween motif. She evolved from there into this little witchy kid who's always making trouble, but is more than capable of getting out of it.

HM: Were you surprised at how popular that character became?

BRERETON: Totally surprised. I never expected the little girl character to be the popular one, or as popular as she became. I think its because she's the most relatable in the bunch. We can all relate to being a kid, and wanting to be an. Plus, she's cute and she's got brains and courage and she's kind of feather in a way.

HM: Why do you think people respond so strongly to the Gunwitch?

BRERETON: He's mysterious and cool looking. You don't really know what you're going to get and the fact that he doesn't speak draws more attention to him.

HM: Are you planning any more spin-offs with the Gunwitch?

BRERETON: *The Gunwitch: Outskirts of Doom* miniseries was well received and I definitely want to do another one. I have a story in mind, and I know Oni loves the character. I kind of want to illustrate it myself, but I'd love to work with Ted Naifeh again. He really nailed Eve and the Gunwitch.

HM: What's your grand plan for Doc Horror and Company?

BRERETON: Right now – to keep publishing their adventures. Storywise, I want to tackle their backgrounds and characters more, and develop Eventyr's story to the point where I would like to go back and explore the days when Doc was a mob enforcer, and I'd like to revisit the world he and Eve came from. Eventually, I'd love to do the "Sister" as a monthly book so I can focus more on the character in smaller increments of time. This would mean I couldn't do the interior art, but I'd want to write it and do the covers, etc. I trust the property to work without me having

to do all the work. I think the characters are strong enough to withstand at least a slight separation from their creator.

HM: Has film been much of an influence on your visual style or storytelling?

BRERETON: Definitely. I love movies. I love filmmaking. They are constantly influencing my visual style. I tend to lay out stories for comics in an almost movie storyboard way. Simple and direct layouts allow me to focus more on what's happening with the characters. Characters in a comic are more like actors to me than drawings. Their expressions, and body language and *acting* are crucial to me and to the way I tell stories.

HM: Given a choice, would you rather write or paint?

BRERETON: I love to paint – but painting entire series is exhausting. I'd rather focus more time on writing, but I could never give up painting – it's my lifesaver. When I paint, I'm able to let the rest of my life float away. I need it and if I haven't painted for a few days I start to get antsy.

HM: What's been your favorite project so far?

BRERETON: *The Nocturnals*, hands down.

HM: The film industry has been raiding the comics business for concepts quite a bit in recent years. Have you had any interest in adapting the Nocturnals to film?

BRERETON: As for the Nocturnals as a property – there are always interested parties who want to make them into a cartoon or a movie – so far the right convergence of personalities have yet to happen to make something really great happen, but I'm more concentrated on the Nocturnals as a creative property than a commercial one. I'd love to see them hit the big screen. I think they have a lot of potential for stories and I hope to explore at least half of the ones I have in mind – that would keep me busy for a few decades.

HM: Any multimedia projects in the works for those characters, such as computer games, statues and so on?

BRERETON: There is a Gunnoch bust statue out from Dynamite Entertainment and you can also get a deluxe hand-crafted version of the statue from the artist who sculpted it from http://bustaglass.studiopanos.com/gunnoch.html.

HM: What would be your dream project if you could do anything?

BRERETON: I guess I'd love to write and direct a trilogy of films based on *The Nocturnals*, or create a TV show from scratch and see it flourish for so much longer. I'm no stranger to movies or TV, but because you reach a wider audience that way. I wish comics had that kind of audience, even a small percentage of it would be wonderful. Comics have such potential, if only the corporations that own the large comics publishers could be a little less short-sighted, and invest in them as a form of media rather than a property – product, my tide pool they can get rich! It's possible, I believe, to introduce the comics form to a younger audience – if characters felt more confident with the content of comics. I'm sure they'd want to incorporate them into their academic reading curriculum starting at a young age. Imagine what that could accomplish – the medium of comics wouldn't have to be relegated to genre stories, but could be more like it is in Japan – an accepted form of communication for all subjects (that sell millions of copies each week). That's a dream project I could get behind.

In Memoriam

Chuck Jones
1912 - 2002

Most of the time it's hyperbole when the media describes some deceased veteranted entertainer as a cultural icon. However, in Chuck Jones' case, it's true. Even if you don't know his name, if you've lived in America during the last fifty years, you've probably laughed at his work. As animation director and character designer supreme, he was hugely influential on his peers. Jones' influence is so pervasive that he left his stamp on American humor just as surely as Buster Keaton, Harvey Kurtzman, or Mark Twain.

Early on, Jones drew a head on America's funny bone, and never let it out of his sights. His Warner Brothers cartoons featuring Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Porky Pig, Pepe Le Pew, the Roadrunner and Coyote are bonafide classics. Jones began in animation in 1930 at the Leon Schlesinger Studio (which later became the Warner Brothers animation unit) and stayed until the animation department closed in 1962. Jones kept busy after that, co-writing, co-producing and directing the live-action/animated feature The Phantom Tollbooth (1969) and co-writing the screenplay for the UPA animated film Gay Purr-ee (1962). After the market for theatrical cartoons dried up, Jones turned to television. His adaptation of Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas (1966) became a holiday institution that is still being shown. In 1965, he won an Academy Award for his short, The Dot and the Line, and in 1996, he was given another for Lifetime Achievement.

Jones died on February 22, 2002 of congestive heart failure. His wife Marian, his daughter Linda, his three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren

COMING IN JULY 2002

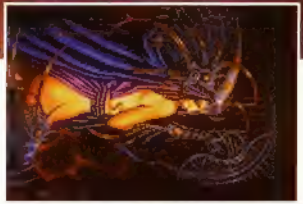
from AIT/planHETlar Publishing, Doll and Creature takes place in a dystopian near future when conservative politics have been driven underground, religion is illegal (following the Religion Wars), the streets are infested with violent drug-addicted psychos called 'Hydes', and American society is dominated by nihilistic Goth culture. This beautifully drawn book is one of the most riveting sci-fi concepts you're going to find outside the pages of Heavy Metal. (To view finished pages and some pencils, go to: http://dollandcreature.tripod.com/)

One reason why Doll and Creature looks so promising is that it boasts a first-rate creative team, including penciller John Heebink, writer Rick Remender and inker Mike Manley. Dan (The Nocturnals) Brereton contributes a way cool cover (featured in this month's Dossier). Penciller Heebink, a versatile and talented artist, has a string of impressive credits to his name, including drawing Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D., Elvira, Mistress of the Dark, Daredevil, and the immortal Space Chicks and Businessmen. Writer Remender is best known as an inker on Marvel's Avengers, but has also worked as an animator on features like Anastasia and The Iron Giant. Manley's credits are too numerous to mention here.

So take it from me, Doll and Creature is going to rock!

DORIAN CLEAVENGER

GALLERY



Dorian Cleavenger has achieved world wide acclamation and renown in record time through his unique approach to the fantasy art field. With an instantly recognizable style combined with technical proficiency and his infusion of a message into every image through often subtle innuendoes and details, his works, since entering the fantasy area have captured and entranced the art world with a completely new aspect that some have termed "The New School of Fantasy Art".

Recently free lance artist Dorian's original works have had several private and university gallery showings, been published in two books exclusively on his art, several collector card sets, a newly published portfolio of selected paintings, numerous magazine covers and articles featuring his works and he has been doing privately commissioned paintings as well. He shall be attending conventions in Europe this season where he has established a huge fan base.

In his Los Angeles studio Dorian generally creates two or three paintings weekly while employing his favorite medium of acrylics applied by brush on illustration board. Acknowledged by artists as a difficult medium to master, he became adept after a short but intensive trial and error period during which he analyzed and conquered the rapid drying time and color density shifts characteristic of the paint.

About half of Dorian's work is done using models... many well known actresses and entertainers... while the rest are created entirely from his rich and decidedly unconventional imagination. Obviously the female form is his primary inspiration around which he devises a theme to present within a painting as he uses his distinctive talent to create the unusual costuming, props, and lighting, then tying all into an impressive sce-

nario. Incorporating sometimes historical or mythological aspects, transposing time in any direction, not just past, present or future... often with unconventional twists to fantasy art that a few viewers have called "erotically disturbing, yet entrancing and provoking", none can deny his extraordinary challenging of conventional concepts. Dorian's fantasy world relies on a rever-

sal of common perspectives to challenge the viewer. Pulling from his accrued and vast storehouse of mental reference material combined with an incredibly creative and analytical mind, it seems Dorian will not soon run out of material to inspire his paintings.

More images, product availability and information on Dorian can be found on his website: **www.dorianart.com.**

The Volcanic Music of Mizar

from *Stellar Journals*
by Karl Kofoed

We have seen that music, or something like it, can be found in forms as varied and unusual as the instruments used to create it.

On Mizar, a planet in the Orion B system with an insect-like population, music is primarily a means of global communication. And it is played on a mountain sized pipe organ powered by a volcano.

Mizar's organ wasn't discovered immediately by colonial pioneers who first charted the mist shrouded planet.

Inside the domed control center, and surrounded by a maze of pipes that drive the mountainous organ, many natives are needed to play the instrument whose main console has a keyboard made for four fingered musicians.

ART: ROBERT WALTERS/KARL KOFOED

©2001 Karl Kofoed

"The planet was difficult to map," observed colony commander Bruce Howze. "It wasn't until we set up our seismic gear that we heard the mountain. We located it inside a gigantic meteor crater whose circular shape makes it an excellent transducer."

On the opposite page (inset) we see the interior of the mountainous volcano, hollowed out and fashioned over millennia to become a means of low frequency communication for their entire planet. The image shows the player's console, thermal shaft, and the labyrinth of pipes that drive the organ, producing sound pressure levels of 190dB or more.

Below (left) is one of the denizens of Mizar undertaking a ritual watch. The apparatus the creature is setting up is thought to be some type of receiving device. He and his kin absorb the news of the day through their feet.

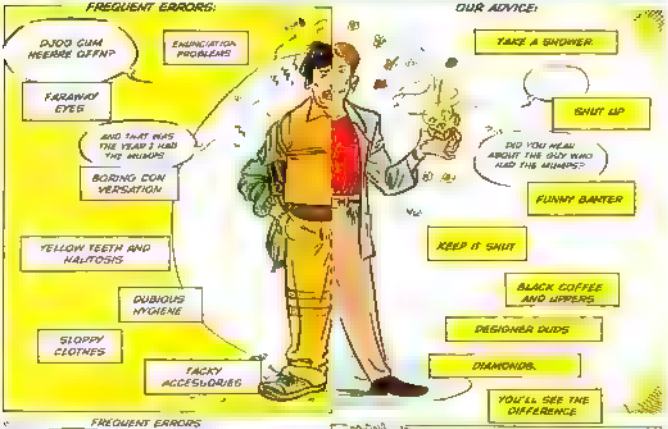
"We have no idea if it's music," adds Cmdr. Howze, "But it was music to our ears. Without it we never would have found them."

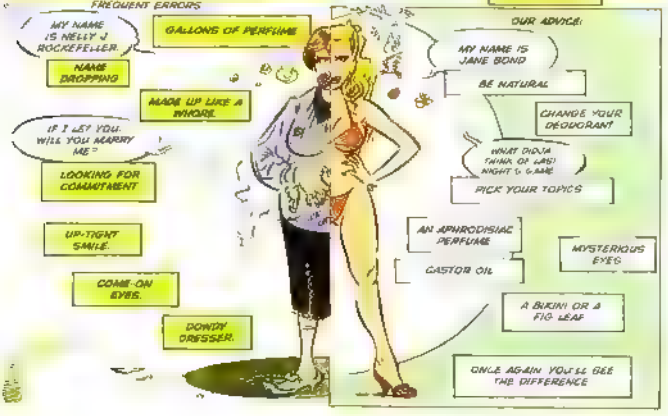
Next in the series: *Musical Instruments*

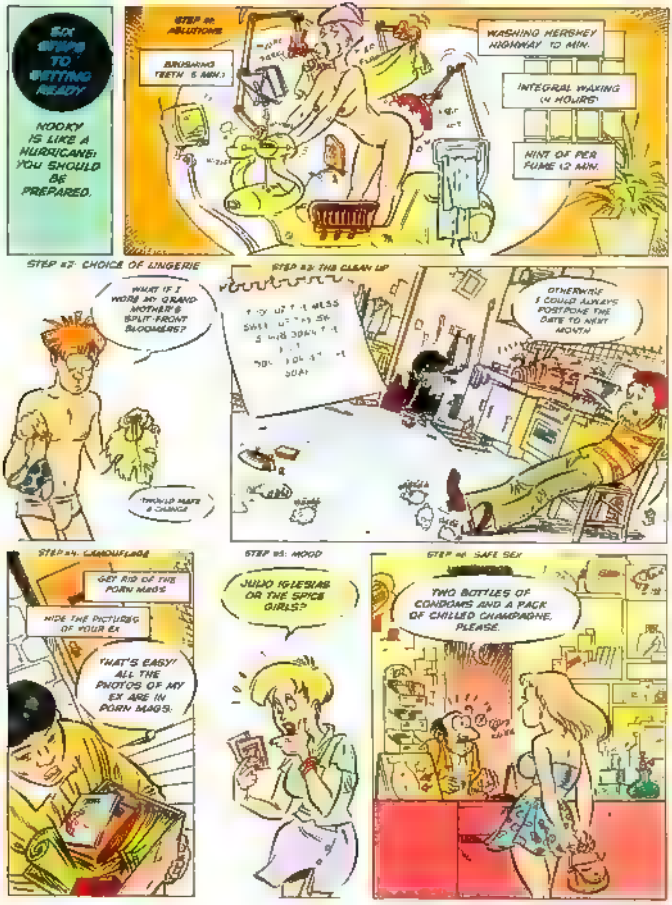
©2001 Karl Kofoed

HOW TO BE ADORABLE

EVEN IF YOU'RE A DOG...






SIX STEPS TO GETTING READY
NOOKY IS LIKE A HURRICANE; YOU SHOULD BE PREPARED.
STEP #1: ABLUTIONS
BRUSHING TEETH: 5 MIN.
WASHING HERSHEY HIGHWAY: 10 MIN.
INTEGRAL WAXING: 14 HOURS!
MINT OF PERFUME: 1.2 MIN.
STEP #2: CHOICE OF LINGERIE
WHAT IF I WORE MY GRANDMOTHER'S SPLIT-FRONT BLOOMERS?
THOUGHT MAKES A CHANGE
STEP #3: THE CLEAN UP
OTHERWISE I COULD ALWAYS POSTPONE THE DATE TO NEXT MONTH
STEP #4: CAMOUFLAGE
GET RID OF THE PORN MAG'S
HIDE THE PICTURES OF YOUR EX
"WHAT'S EASY! ALL THE PHOTOS OF MY EX ARE IN PORN MAGS.
STEP #5: MOOD
JULIO IGLESIAS OR THE SPICE GIRLS?
STEP #6: SAFE SEX
TWO BOTTLES OF CONDOMS AND A PACK OF CHILLED CHAMPAGNE, PLEASE.

H7-A PENITENTIARY
BOOOM
REBELLION!
REPEAT
REBELLION IN
WE HAVE A
VOLUNTEER.
A SHERIFF. HE IS
RIGHT BEHIND ME

A VOLUNTEER ? BUT SIR ! HE SHOT THAT'S ANOTHER ORDER !
HE ALWAYS LEAVES US PIECES AND S**T !!!

OFFICER IN OPERATIONS, HE IS IN CHARGE NOW.
WANT ALL ROBOTS, DRONES AND CAMERAS TO BE DISCONNECTED NOW
OKAY THIS SHOULD BE ENOUGH.
BUT POWER'S OFF
HOW ARE THEY PLANNING TO GET ME?

THEY WON'T GET YOU...
PAUL.
LICK OFF MADONNA??
AH!

O HELL WITH YOU!
BUT
NOOO.. WAIT WAIT!!!
BUT YOU... ARE "ANOTHER CORPSE
AHA!

WHY DON'T YOU FINISH ME OFF?
NOT YET
SEE, EACH DEATH MUST HAPPEN IN ITS PROPER TIME
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU?!
I'M BECOMING A MACHINE AGAIN
HAPPENS EVERY MONTH. SO IT'S TIME FOR ME TO REPEAT THE RITUAL
AAAH!!!!

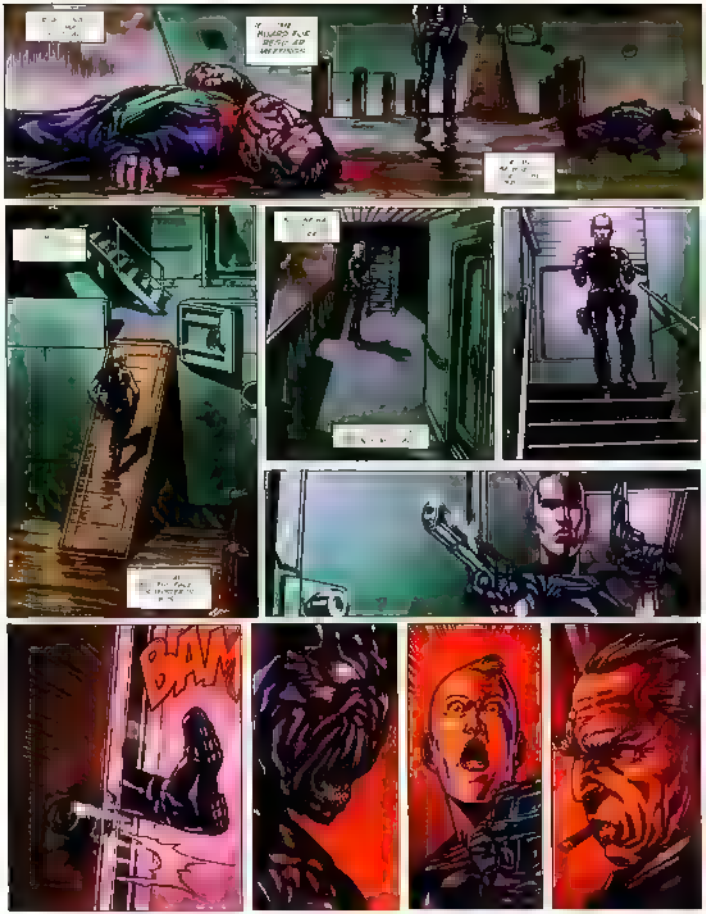
AAAHHH!
MAKE IT ANOTHER JOURNEY AND THROUGH AGAIN
FINALLY.
ANOTHER HEAD THE SET IS INCOMPLETE
I HAVE NEVER AGAIN WASTE
THE CLIENT DID HIS PART AND KEPT HIS WORD
AGAIN? WELL DO OUR PART TOO
OKAY
WHY
TO HIM A FAVOR
KILLING

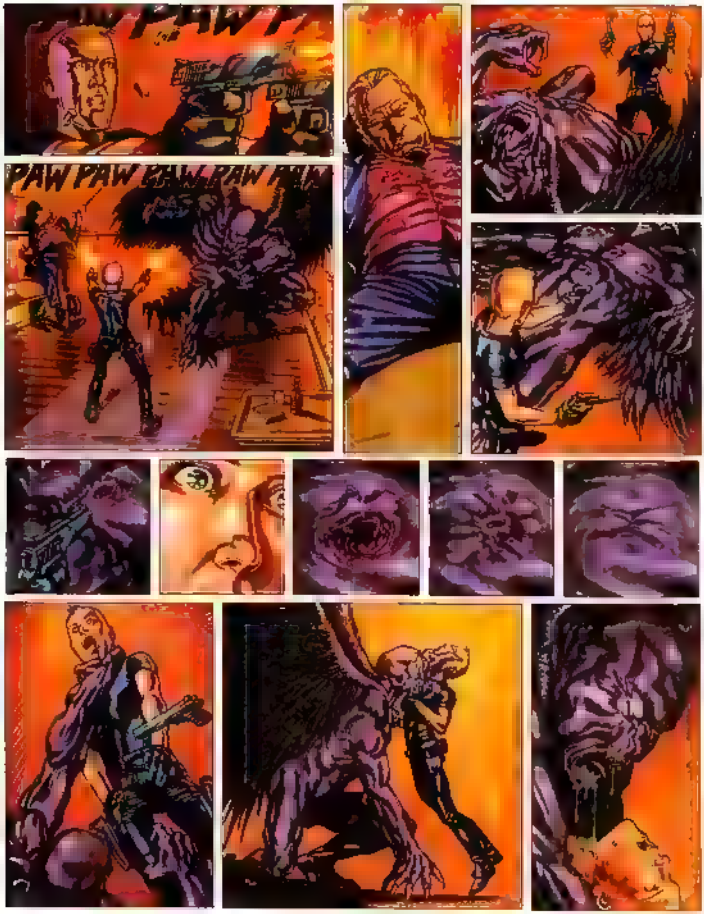
YEAH, GOD KNOW WHAT CAN DO.
HE KEEP HIS WORD, DON'T HE?
HE FOOLED HE STONE HEAD AND SINCE THEN HE'S SENT US A HEART EVERY MONTH AND I'M SUPPOSED TO KEEP HIM HUMAN ANOTHER MONTH!!!!
DO SOMETHING. DO SOMETHING!! WHY DOESN'T HE DO SOMETHING.
HE IS JUST DRUNK.
EVERYTHING WAS GREAT
GOD ON ONE SIDE ME ON THE OTHER AND HUMANITY IN THE MIDDLE
AND THEN HE HAS FOOLED US AND HAS LEFT US HELPLESS

SHIIT

FIRE!

BRRRRAT
BRRRRAT
BRRRRAT
PAW
BRRRAT
RRAT
BRRRAT
PAW




PAW PAW PAW PAW PAW

MY JOB WAS TO
GET RID OF
DEBRA KINGSLEY

IN WHICH THE OUTCOME
WAS A SUCCESS

I MAY ALSO
BE GOD
OF AN
EMPIRE

WHEN YOUR BACK WORK AND YOUR ABILITY
TO DO IT ALL ARE MADE EVEN
MORE REAL

WE PONDER OUR NEW DEATH
SCENE AS WE'VE LIVED A DOZEN OR
SO NIGHTS ALREADY SLEEPING IN A
CLOSE EMBRACE

HERE'S
HOPING
LEFT
EVERY FOR
A SHAPING
FEELING OF
POWER

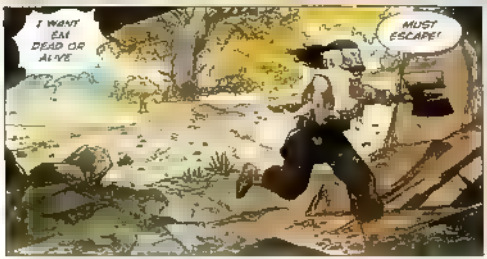
MY ABSOLUTE FEAR:
OF THESE PEOPLE WE
ARMORED US

THE SPELL OF THE RHUNES

C'MON, MEN!

HUNT 'EM DOWN!

GHOR IS HUNGRY!



WRITE DOWN, SCARAB GHOR IS GOING HUNTING. GO ON, WRITE IT DOWN.
HURRY UP, YOU LAZY CREATURE! I'M NOT GOING TO KEEP REPEATING MYSELF. WRITE IT DOWN!
AND SO GHOR'S WARRIORS SET OFF TO THE HUNT. BUT WHAT WERE THEY AFTER?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU DAMN SCARAB? STOP IT, RIGHT AWAY!!
YOU'RE GONNA GET A TASTE OF MY WRATH, YOU LITTLE SQUIRT AND DOPE
Pok
BAMM
RAAAAAA
RAAAC
BONG
OUCH!

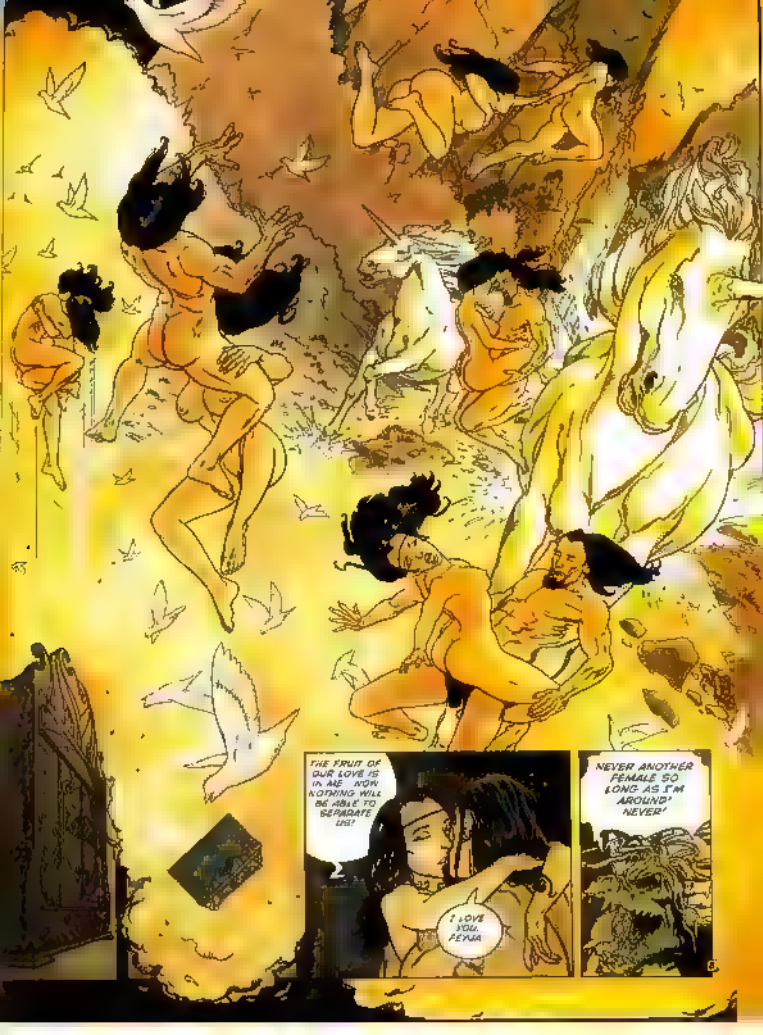
OOOHAAAAAII
KILL!
GET EM!
OOOF
YOU MAY AS WELL TAKE YOUR TIME!
OOOF!
FOK
BONK
OUILLE
SO YOU DISGUSTING LITTLE PEST YOU'RE NOT LAUGHING SO HARD NOW ARE YOU MAYBE I'LL SQUASH YOU UNDER MY HEEL JUST TO SEE WHAT IT FEELS LIKE
CRAAAAKK
?!
KILL
CLAN! HUNGRY!
STINKING DEVIL ANOTHER HAIR'S BREADTH AND WE WOULD ALL HAVE BEEN TURNED TO PULP!
HUNT EM!
KILL 'EM!!

GOD DAMN SCARAB SOON!?
OUCH!!
I AM GONNA DOAUH!
THE SCARABFARY IS GETTING ON MY NERVES. MASTER LUIS WILL BE FURIOUS IF I DON'T FOLLOW ALL THE EVENTS AND. PFFF!
THUMF
LET'S CHECK THIS... AH THE BANQUET!
ON PRINCESS FEYJA'S TWENTIETH BIRTHDAY HER PARENTS, THE RULERS OF THE EMPIRE DECIDED IT WAS TIME SHE GOT MARRIED
WE WILL ASK JELK'H, THE NECROMANCER TO READ HER CLEPSYDRA
INITIATE ME, JELK'H. I WOULD LIKE TO ACQUIRE YOUR KNOWLEDGE
HMM YES BUT IT WILL BE A LONG APPRENTICESHIP AND
FOLLOW ME! MAKE ROOM!
SORRY PRINCESS, I MUST GO! THEY NEED ME
HOW CAN IT BE?!
DON'T FORGET MY REQUEST
WELL, IT'S A GOOD START HUH?
?!

LATER AT DAWN
IELK'H!
SO, HOW WAS YOUR EVENING AT THE CASTLE?
JUST AS BORING AS USUAL
LIAR!! YOU COULDN'T STOP DROOLING BEFORE THAT USELESS FEMALE!!!
YOU WENT OUTSIDE?! YOU DARED GO OUT FROM HERE?!
IELK'H WAS FURIOUS. SO HE IMPRISONED HORSHAA ONCE AGAIN IN HER CHRYSALIS FOR BREAKING THEIR PACT
TIME WENT BY
FEYJA BECAME IELK'H'S DISCIPLE AND THEN, UNDER GREAT SECRECY HIS MISTRESS
FEW KNOW HOW SHE WITH PUTS US A DEAL ABOVE WE WOULD LOSE EVERYTHING
IF YOU WANTED TO, WE COULD HAVE A CHILD AND THEN NO ONE COULD HARM US! IT'S WRITTEN! THAT'S THE LAW
BUT WE ARE NOT IN THE POSITION OF COMMON MORTALS, FEYJA MAYBE WE WOULD PUT OUR CHILD IN GREAT DANGER, TOO.

WHAT CAN A NECROMANCER DO AGAINST THE STRENGTH OF IMPERIAL POWER AND
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING TO ME LEIA !! YOU KNOW THE IMPERIAL RECORDS BETTER THAN I DO
NOTHING CAN ALTER THE LAW. ONLY OUR LOVE MATTERS
YES BUT
YOU'RE RESCUING BECAUSE OF ALDRAAN
SO IT'S TRUE YOU KNOW!
BETWEEN THE TWO OF US WE'LL SLAVE HER
EVEN IF EVENTS GET BEYOND OUR CONTROL. THE IMPORTANT THING IS TO KEEP OUR LOVE STRONG
COULD YOU STAND IT IF SOMEONE BESIDES YOU TOUCHED ME ?
I DO
AND CARESSED MY HIPS
GO. COME THEN

WHAT ABOUT THE EMPEROR? HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF YOUR PARENTS?
THE LAW APPLIES TO EVERYONE EVEN THE EMPEROR MUST BOW DOWN TO IT COME
WILL OUR LOVE BE STRONG ENOUGH TO STRUGGLE AGAINST SUCH ADVERSITY?
EVEN YOGA STRENGTH ENS OUR LOVE
YES, BUT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT MY PARENTS AND BETWEEN US WE WILL SAVE HORSMAN. COME ALONG
TO YOU STILL DOUBT THE STRENGTH OF OUR LOVE?
NO OF COURSE NOT !
YOU MEAN MORE THAN ANYTHING TO ME DEAR!
HMMM LOVE ME BACK!
LOVE ME


THE FRUIT OF OUR LOVE IS IN ME NOW. NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO SEPARATE US!
I LOVE YOU, FEYUA
NEVER ANOTHER FEMALE SO LONG AS I'M AROUND! NEVER!

DON'T WANT YOUR HELP AND WE HAS NO NEED OF YOU
YOU ARE NOTHING AGAINST THE POWERS THAT BE
I KNOW THE ONE THAT CAN STOP THIS HERESY!!!
IT'S GOING TO BE MORE FENDOUS
NUMMAH M' DEAR SO FAR ALL'S GOING WELL
YOU SEEM TO BE QUITE SURE
NAAA ALL RIGHT!
NAA WELL FEYLA NAMAM ?
WHAT?"
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I HAVE TO CHECK EVERYTHING MR SCARISTARY WHAT DO YOU THINK?
STOP IT WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A LOOK INSTEAD? WE ALMOST MISSED THE COURSE OF HISTORY
MEY THAT'S ENOUTH
IN ANY CASE WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN SOON
GO WHERE WAS I ?
AH YES THE HUNT

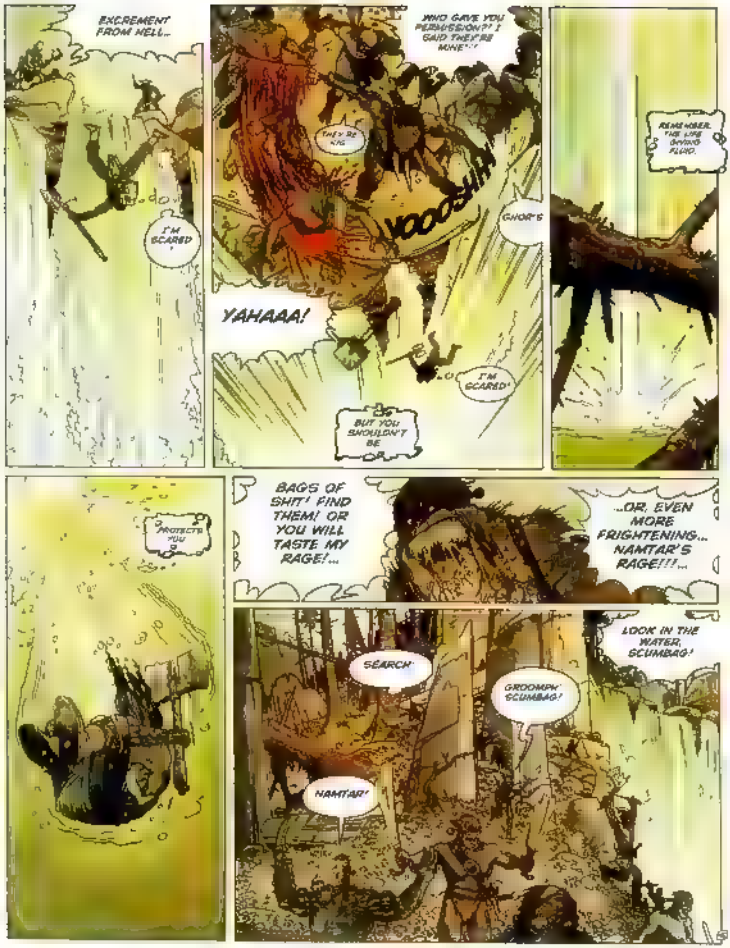
GET 'EM!
KILL
GROARRR!!
WHOOPS
I'LL READ LATER!
PRETTY CHILD
MUST HURRY AND FOLLOW
MASTER LUG MUST KNOW EVERYTHING!

QUICK! QUICK! I'LL DEAL WITH SCARABTARY PROBLEMS LAT
WOW! I GUESS THE FUGITIVES' DAYS ARE COUNTED!
COME ON DEVILS NOSE OUT THE PREY !!
PREY
GAME
GROAARR!
YOU MUST BE HUNGRY MY DEARS
GRUMPH!
EAT!
HUN GRY
HUN GRY
RUN
YRM! GODDAMN CYCLOPS! YOU WILL BE MY LUNCH!!!

HA HA HA!! IT'S A DEAD END! THE CLAN IS GOING TO EAT!!!!
EAT!
EAT!
!!!!
ESCAPE HIDE!
HIDE! SHELTER!
NO SEE! HIDE!
HELP HIM, PHOE!
SHELTER FOOD EAT?

YRM! TRAITOR! YOU WILL FEED THE CLAN!
WHOA.
GRUAR
HIDE! TOO LATE
?!
GRGARR! EAT!
GROARR! FRGRR!
EAT
GARR!!
FRGROAR! PREY!!

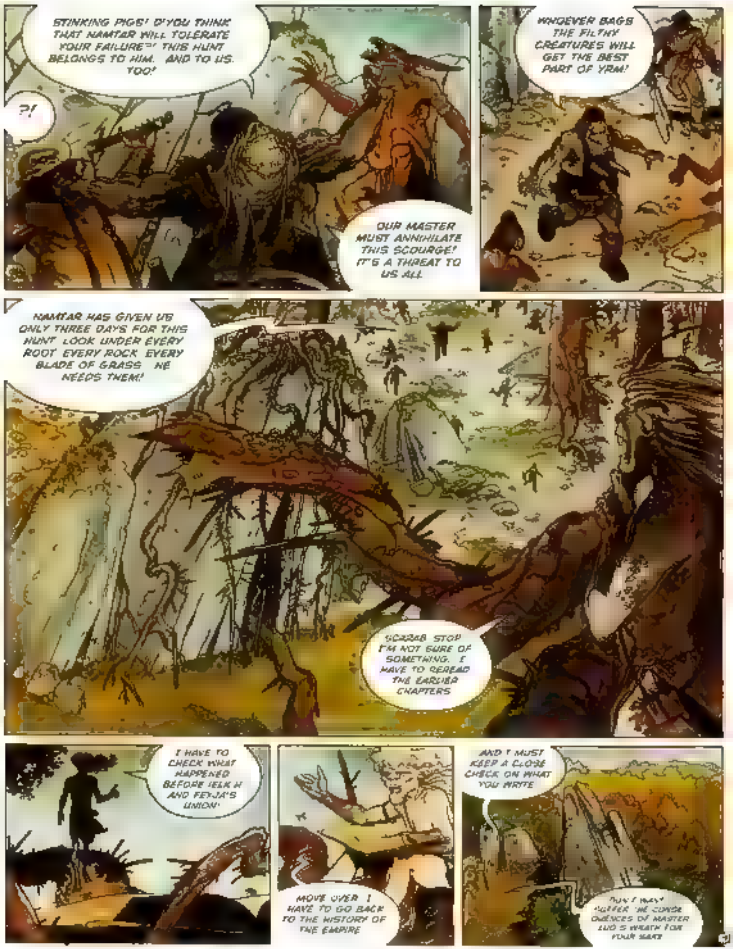
GRRR!
KILL
GROARR
EAT GIMME
YRM. YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD GET AWAY FROM ME. NO ONE DOUBLE CROSSES ONOR WITH IMPUNITY!
GRURFLL
GRGORR!!
BIFF!!
YOU'RE GOING TO DIE
ROORFL!
PREY? MINE?..
ROAAAARR!!!
GRRRR!
SCRAAFF
ROAARFL!!!
!!!
BRAANG
?!
GRUMPH

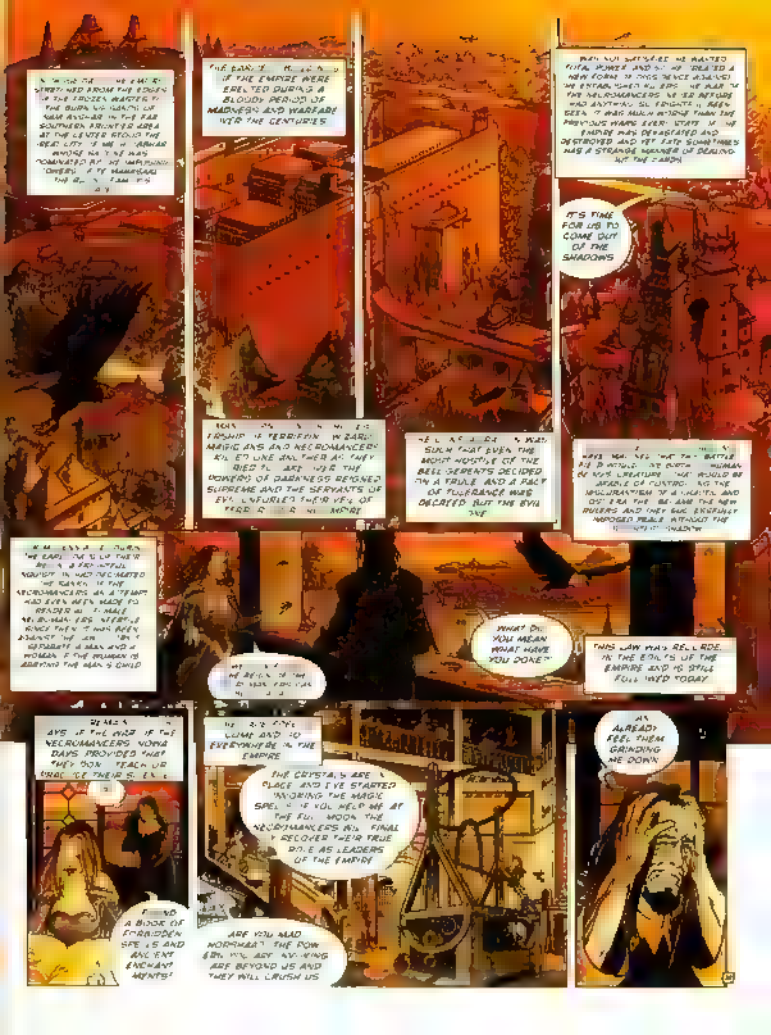

EXCREMENT FROM HELL...
I'M SCARED
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION?! I SAID THEY'RE MINE!!!
THEY'RE MINE
WOOOSH
GHOR'S
YAHAAA!
I'M SCARED!
BUT YOU SHOULDN'T BE
REMEMBER, THE LIFE BRINGS FLUID.
PROTECTS YOU
BAGS OF SHIT! FIND THEM! OR YOU WILL TASTE MY RAGE!...
...OR, EVEN MORE FRIGHTENING... NAMTAR'S RAGE!!!...
SEARCH!
GROOMPH! SCUMBAG!
LOOK IN THE WATER, SCUMBAG!
NAMTAR!

PROTECT ME? BUT I'M AFRAID WHAT CAN I DO?
TRUST YOURSELF. FEEL YOUR WAY.
TRAIN TO YOUR ADVANTAGE. GUIDE HIM.
BUT WHERE I'M SURROUNDED BY DANGER
LISTEN TO THE EARTH. TO SURVIVE YOU MUST BECOME ONE WITH IT!
THERE! YOU'VE UNDERSTOOD. THE EARTH IS YOUR ALLY!

LOOK!
SCUM BAG.
?!
SILENCE IS YOUR ALLY. YOUR SURVIVAL
SNIF! SNIF! SNIF!

SNIFF SNIFF! WOOF!
FIND EM!!
SNIFF SNIFF SNIFF
FIND PREY!!
FORGE! FEAR BECOME EART!
DAMN! DON T PISS. FIND PREY
AH AH AH, DAMN DOG! DAMN! AH AH AH!
LISTEN TO ME SCUMBAGS!!
I WANT THEM! THEY'RE NOT FAR AND WE WILL FIND
DAMN DOG! DAMN YOU!
GROARR!!


STINKING PIGS! D'YOU THINK THAT NAMTAR WILL TOLERATE YOUR FAILURE? THIS HUNT BELONGS TO HIM. AND TO US. TOO!
?!
OUR MASTER MUST ANNIHILATE THIS SCOURGE! IT'S A THREAT TO US ALL
WHOEVER BAGS THE FILTHY CREATURES WILL GET THE BEST PART OF YRM!
NAMTAR HAS GIVEN US ONLY THREE DAYS FOR THIS HUNT. LOOK UNDER EVERY ROOT, EVERY ROCK, EVERY BLADE OF GRASS. HE NEEDS THEM!
GRRRR STOP! I'M NOT SURE OF SOMETHING. I HAVE TO REREAD THE EARLIER CHAPTERS
I HAVE TO CHECK WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE ISKUM AND FEYJA'S UNION.
MOVE OVER. I HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE HISTORY OF THE EMPIRE
AND I MUST KEEP A CLOSE CHECK ON WHAT YOU WRITE
BUT I MAY SUFFER THE CURSE OWENCES OF MASTER LUG'S WRATH FOR FOUR YEARS


IT'S TIME FOR US TO COME OUT OF THE SHADOWS
WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?
THIS LAW WAS REPEALED IN THE 6TH YEAR OF THE EMPIRE AND IS STILL ENFORCED TODAY
AH ALREADY I FEEL THEM GRINDING ME DOWN
ARE YOU MAD NORMAN? THE POWERS WE ARE AWAKING ARE BEYOND US AND THEY WILL CRUSH US
I FOUND A BOOK OF FORBIDDEN SPELLS AND ANCIENT ENCHANTMENTS
LET'S GO AND DO EVERYTHING IN THE EMPIRE
THE CRYSTALS ARE A PLACE AND I'VE STARTED DRAWING THE MAGIC SPELL IF YOU MEET ME AT THE FULL MOON THE NECROMANCERS WILL FINALLY RECOVER THEIR TRUE ROLE AS LEADERS OF THE EMPIRE

LOOK AT THE FULL MOON. THE STARS AND THE MOON ARE ALIGNED AUSPICIOUSLY AND WILL SERVE OUR DESIGNS. THE MAGICAL DEITIES OF OUR ANCESTORS WILL INCREASE OUR POWERS AND THEN NOTHING AND NO ONE WILL BE ABLE TO RESIST US!
AND THE SOLSTICE OF THE RED MOON WILL TAKE PLACE
HA HA HA HA IN THEIR ARROGANCE OUR SELF SUFFICIENT RULERS HAVE FORGOTTEN THE VERY EXISTENCE OF ANCIENT SPELL BOOKS. JUST A FEW MORE DEGREES

JUST LOOK AT THE RACES' TRUE POWER!
JOIN FORCES WITH ME, ALLOW YOURSELF TO BE FILLED WITH THE MAGIC POWERS OF OUR ANCESTORS!
MMRGHRR... I D-FEND
THEY WILL MAKE YOU THE ABSOLUTE RULER OF THE EMPIRE!!
AND WE WILL RULE TOGETH
AAAAAHH!!! AT LAST!!...
BUT WHAT...
AAOOWH! STOP! I'M IN PAIN!!
AAAHHH!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING MASTER? IT'S MY BROTHER, THE FUTURE RULER OF THE EMPIRE!
POOR STUPID FEMALE! THAT MORTAL ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH! ONLY I HAVE THE RIGHT!
YOU WILL RULE WITH ME!
BUT TO MAKE SURE OF YOUR LOYALTY
HELL I WILL PAY THE PRICE
NO! YOU WILL NOT DREAD MEAD

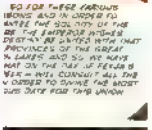
RAHAAA !!!
YOU RE GONNA PAY FOR THIS!!!
AAAUUU
DAMN YOU!
PLAK
VROUOOFF
EEEEEEE!!.. GO BACK TO HELL!!!

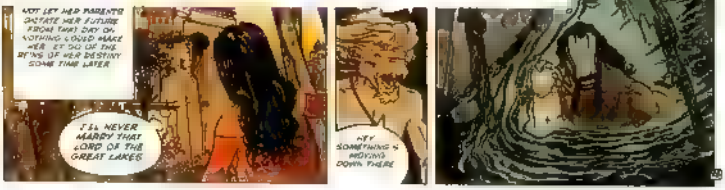
HORSHAA!
YOU WILL BE CURSED
FSSSs...
TILL MY RETURN!
?!
!ELKKK
HORSHAA. IT'S HORRIBLE
FSSSs
HELP ME BROTHER!
I'M HERE FOR YOU SISTER
DON'T WORRY I'LL FIND AN INCANTATION TO UNDO THIS SPELL!
I SWEAR

A FEW HOURS LATER
BAM BAM BAM
GROAARF!
BAM BAM BAM
MASTER ELK'H!
GRRRR!!
WHAT?!
MASTER ELK'H! THE KING REQUESTS YOUR PRESENCE IMMEDIATELY. A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN CALLED TO MAKE SOME IMPORTANT DECISIONS
MASTER ELK'H! MAY I COME IN?!
NO!!
BAM BAM
GROONFF!
HAIR MURDY MURDY YOU CAN'T KEEP THE KING WAITING
MASTER ELK'H
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU, BUT THIS SPELL WILL MAKE YOU INVISIBLE!
ELK'H WHAT ARE YOU DOING
PROTECTING YOU!
NOOOO!!!

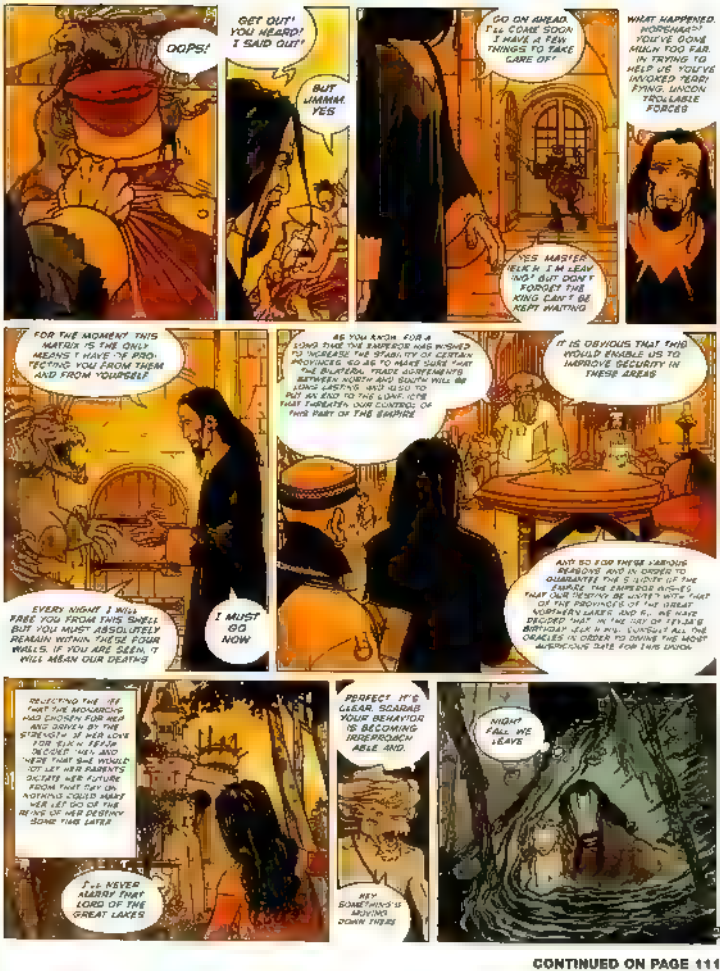
YOU MUST TRUST ME WORSHIPFUL. I JUST NEED A LITTLE TIME
MASTER IELK'H!
COMING COMING
OOPS? AH, MASTER IELK'H
BUT ARE YOU SURE IT HAS TO BE RIGHT AWAY?
YES, MASTER IELK'H ABSOLUTELY SURE YOU KNOW HOW THE KING IS WHEN HE WANTS SOMETHING.
THE KING AND QUEEN HAVE AGREED WITH THE EMPEROR'S APPROVAL TO UNITE THEIR LINE WITH THAT OF THE RULERS OF THE PROVINCE OF THE GREAT NORTHERN LAKES.
YOU MUS REVEAL THE MUST MUSPIC DUE MONEY FOR THEIR UNION. THE DATE THE BOOK THE MEANING + BOOKS EVERYWHERE AS YOU KNOW MASTER IELK'H YOU ARE THE MYSTIC MANCER AND DOOOH
BUT IT'S AMAZING! SHE'S AMAZING!
?!
I HADN'T SEEN ANY OF THOSE SINCE YOU'VE BEEN IN CHARGE OF DRIVING OUT EVIL SPIRITS FROM MELN GISHAR.
WHAT DEVILS DO YOU WISH TO DRIVE OUT OF THE CITY WITH THE ONE YOU'VE CREATED
BUT WAIT
EVEN THOSE FROM TE MANASHAL AREN'T AS
STOP ME DYING KUAYE DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN ANYTHING TO Y...
SUCH A TERRIFYING APPEARANCE
REALLY HIDEOUS!

Liberatore


SO FOR THESE FARFLUNG REGIONS AND IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THE SOLIDITY OF THE RE THE EMPEROR INTENDS DESTINY BE LINKED WITH THAT PROVINCE'S OF THE GREAT N LAKES. AND SO, HE ASKS HAT ON THE DAY OF FEYLIN'S VEN WITHOUT ALL THIS N ORDER TO CHOOSE THE MOST SUITABLE FOR THIS UNION


NOT LET HER PARENTS DICTATE HER FUTURE FROM THAT DAY ON. NOTHING COULD MAKE HER GIVE UP ON THE RE'S OF HER DESTINY SOME TIME LATER.
I'LL NEVER MARRY THAT LORD OF THE GREAT LAKES!
HEY! SOMETHING'S MOVING DOWN THERE

CONTINUED ON PAGE 111


OOPS!
GET OUT! YOU HEARD? I SAID OUT!
BUT UHMMM. YES
GO ON AHEAD. I'LL COME SOON. I HAVE A FEW THINGS TO TAKE CARE OF!
YES MASTER. FEAR NOT. I'M LEAVING! BUT DON'T FORGET THE KING CAN'T BE KEPT WAITING
WHAT HAPPENED, HORPENHET? YOU'VE DONE MUCH TOO FAR. IN TRYING TO HELP US YOU'VE INVOKED FEARFYING, UNCONTROLLABLE FORCES
FOR THE MOMENT THIS MATRIX IS THE ONLY MEANS I HAVE OF PROTECTING YOU FROM THEM AND FROM YOURSELF
EVERY NIGHT I WILL FREE YOU FROM THIS SPELL BUT YOU MUST ABSOLUTELY REMAIN WITHIN. THESE FOUR WALLS. IF YOU ARE SEEN, IT WILL MEAN OUR DEATHS
I MUST GO NOW
AS YOU KNOW, FOR A LONG TIME THE EMPEROR HAS WISHED TO INCREASE THE STABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVINCES SO AS TO MAKE SURE THAT THE BILATERAL TRADE AGREEMENTS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH WILL BE LONG LASTING AND ALSO TO PUT AN END TO THE CIVIL WARS THAT THREATEN OUR CONTROL OF THIS PART OF THE EMPIRE
IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THIS WOULD ENABLE US TO IMPROVE SECURITY IN THESE AREAS
ANY SO FOR THESE VARIOUS REASONS AND IN ORDER TO GUARANTEE THE STABILITY OF THE EMPIRE, THE EMPEROR WISHES THAT OUR DESTINY BE MORE WITH THAT OF THE PROVINCES OF THE FAREAST NORTHERN LANDS. AND IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT IN THE JULY OF 1933 A MARRIAGE CEREMONY WILL UNITE ALL THE ORACLES IN ORDER TO DIVINE THE MOST AUSPICIOUS DATE FOR THIS UNION
REJECTING THE WISH THAT THE MONARCHS HAD CHOSEN FOR HER AND DRAWN BY STRENGTH OF HER LOVE FOR EACH OTHER, DECIDED THEY, AND WERE THAT SHE WOULD NOT LET HER PARENTS DICTATE HER FUTURE FROM THAT DAY ON. NOTHING COULD MAKE HER LET GO OF THE REINS OF HER DESTINY SOME TIME LATER
I'LL NEVER MARRY THAT LORD OF THE GREAT LAKES
PERFECT. IT'S CLEAR. SCARAB YOUR BEHAVIOR IS BECOMING IRREPROACHABLE AND.
HEY SOMETHING'S MOVING DOWN THERE
NIGHT FALL. WE LEAVE

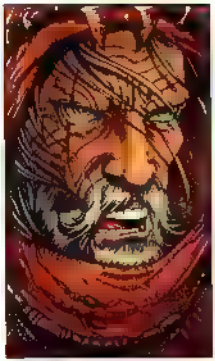
CONTINUED ON PAGE 111

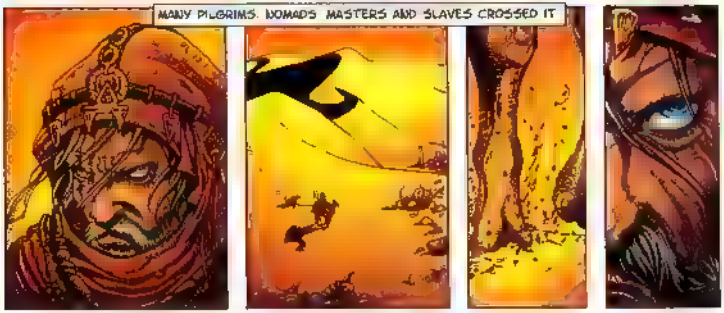
AN ETERNITY OF PAIN IS PROMISED TO THOSE WHO DARE FACE ITS EXTREME DARKNESS
THE LARGEST OF THE ARMIES CANNOT FIGHT IT AND VERY FEW CREATURES SURVIVE WITH IT
NO MAN CAN LIVE HERE AND TO CROSS IT REQUIRES A COURAGE STRONGER THAN INSANITY
IT KNOCKS MOUNTAINS DOWN TO TRAP THE WINDS
IT IS THE UNFAILING, IT IS THE END AND THE BEGINNING. IT SAW THE ADVENT OF OUR WORLD AND WILL SEE IT'S FALL
THAT'S THE WAY THE DESERT IS !
A GRAVE OF LIGHT AND SILENCE

TADMURU...

STORY AND ART : XAVIER

SCRIPTS AND COLORS : PERU

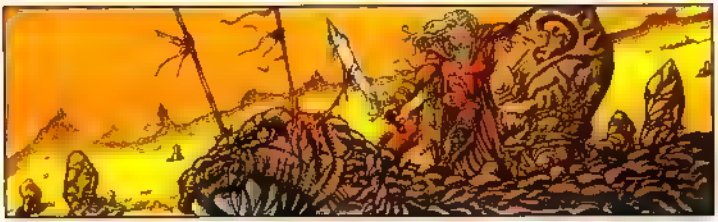


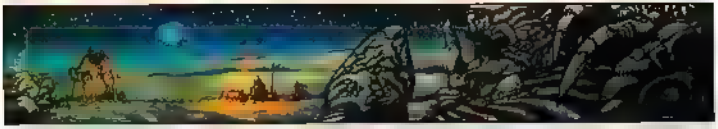


IT WAS KNOWN AS THE LAST BASTION OF OUR CIVILIZATION BY ALL THE CARAVANS
A HAVEN OF PEACE WHOSE HENCEFORTH, MAJESTIC BEAUTY WAS COVERED BY A MORE VORACIOUS SAND THAN DEATH ITSELF
ACCORDING TO AN AGE OLD TRADITION. THE PEOPLE WHO HALTED IN THIS GEM OF DESERT SHARE THEIR RICHES OUT
WATER JEWELS SLAVES CATTLE
TRAVELLERS GIFTS WERE ONE OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE FADED CITY

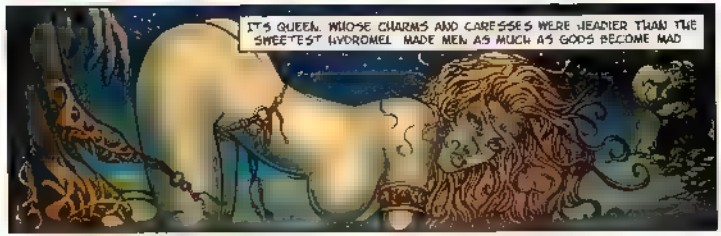
WRETCHED PEOPLE WHO DID NOT YIELD OFFERING WERE HANDED OVER TO THE GUARDIANS OF THE OASIS
HUGE FEROCIOUS AND INVINCIBLE CREATURES

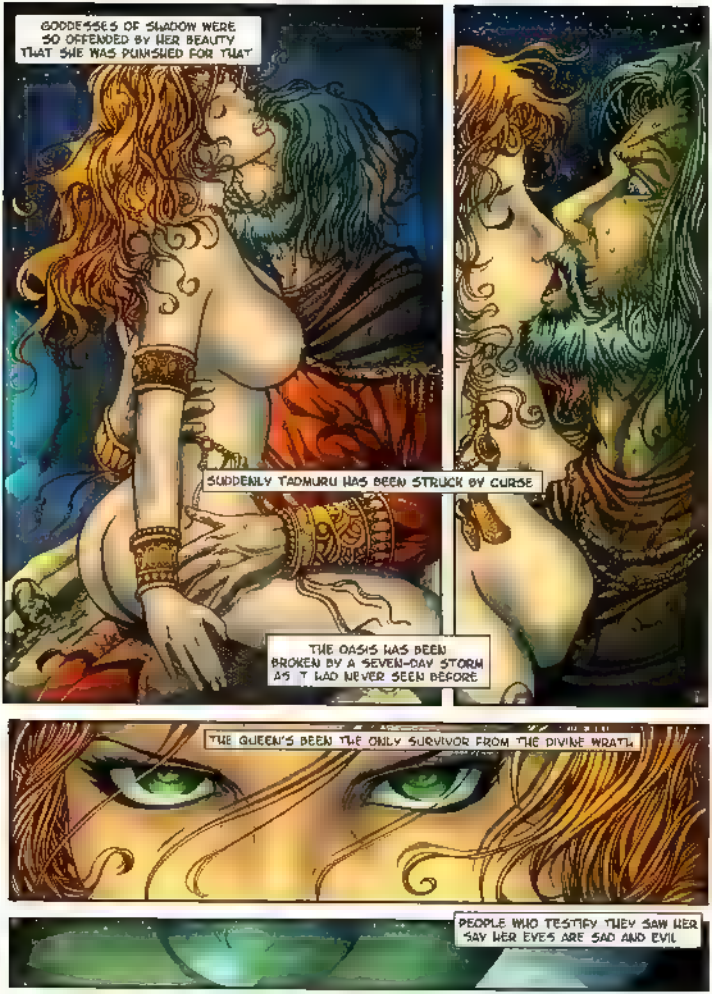
SOME OF THEM ARE TOLD TO BE STILL ALIVE BY DESERT RUMOUR
BUT WEAKENED BECAUSE OF FAST FOR AGES



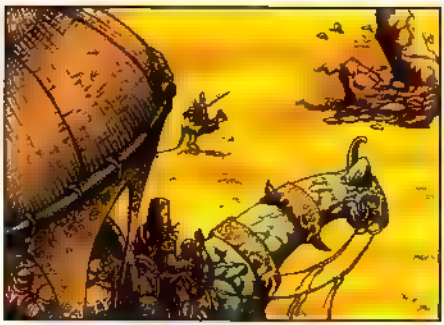


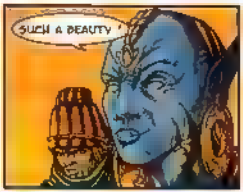
TADMURU WAS ALSO A QUIET REST AREA WHERE ENTERTAINMENT AND PLEASURES WERE PRACTISED AS AN ART


IT'S QUEEN, WHOSE CHARMS AND CARESSES WERE HEADIER THAN THE SWEETEST HYDROMEL MADE MEN AS MUCH AS GODS BECOME MAD


GODDESSES OF SHADOW WERE SO OFFENDED BY HER BEAUTY THAT SHE WAS PUNISHED FOR THAT
SUDDENLY TADMURU HAS BEEN STRUCK BY CURSE
THE OASIS WAS BEEN BROKEN BY A SEVEN-DAY STORM AS IT HAD NEVER SEEN BEFORE
THE QUEEN'S BEEN THE ONLY SURVIVOR FROM THE DIVINE WRATH
PEOPLE WHO TESTIFY THEY SAW HER SAY HER EYES ARE SAD AND EVIL

BY THE PROPHET'S ! YOUR STORY IS AS SAD AS THIS CURSED DESERT
SAD. BUT FULL OF TRUTH.
MY FATHERS' ANCESTORS LIVED IN TADMURU AND I M GETTING THIS FABLE FROM THEM
MY LORD THE DESERT SEEMS TO PRESENT US WITH SOMETHING



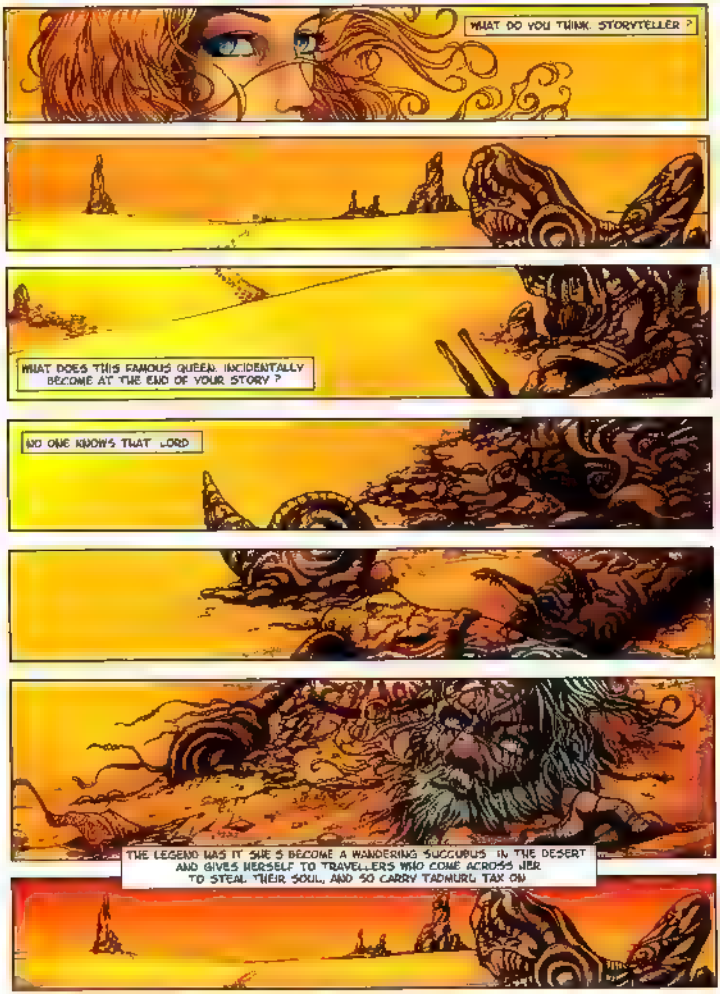

SUCH A BEAUTY !

MUTE

AND SO PLEASANT

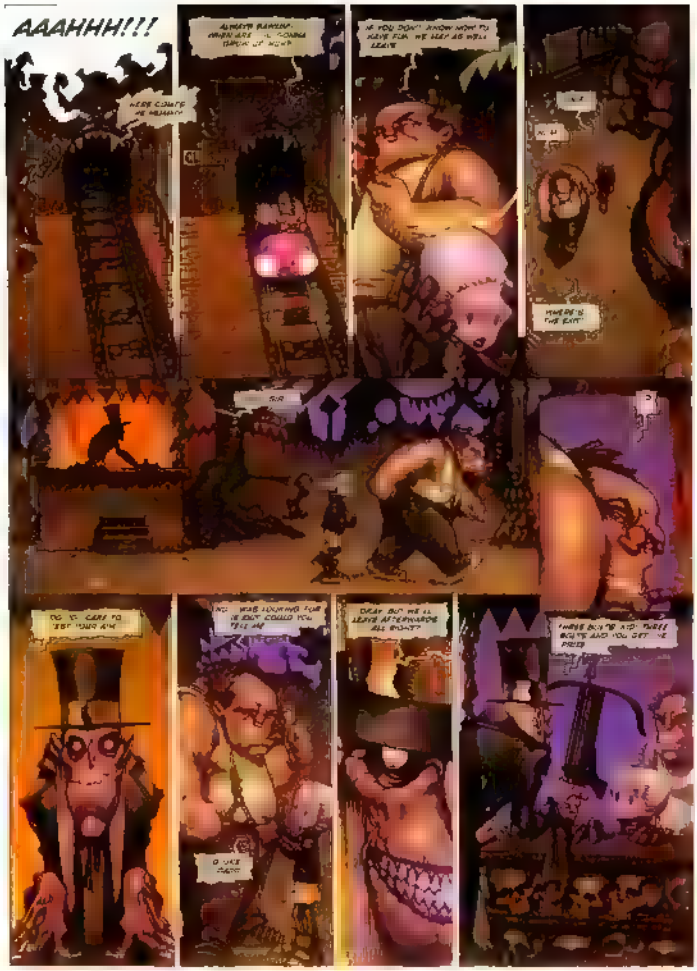
THE VERY ESSENCE OF TEMPTATION

MAYBE HAVE WE FOUND THE QUEEN OF TADMURL ?


WHAT DO YOU THINK, STORYTELLER ?
WHAT DOES THIS FAMOUS QUEEN, INCIDENTALLY BECOME AT THE END OF YOUR STORY ?
NO ONE KNOWS THAT, LORD
THE LEGEND HAS IT SHE'S BECOME A WANDERING SUCCUBUS IN THE DESERT AND GIVES HERSELF TO TRAVELLERS WHO COME ACROSS HER TO STEAL THEIR SOUL, AND SO CARRY TADMURU TAX ON

AAAHH!
RELAX BRUNO IT'S ONLY ME
BOO HOO!
By Carlos Trillo & Eduardo Mendizabal
WHERE'S MOM IN THIS?
NOTHING YOU CAN'T FIX - PUT A TOWEL ON HER AND GIVE HER A BATH. WE LOVE A BAT
THERE, TAKE HIM. HE'S READY. I'M OFF
WHEN, I WONDER ALREADY, LISTENING TO YOUR RAVING DRIVES ME CRAZY
IT'S ALWAYS ME. ALWAYS ME AS IF I DIDN'T HAVE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE HIM OUT FOR ONCE?
I'M SURE THAT'S ALL NEED FOR US BOTH NOW ALL DAY AND NOW YOU WANT ME TO TAKE HIM OUT
OKAY, OKAY ANYTHING'S BETTER THAN HAVING TO LISTEN TO YOU

HERE WE ARE, ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
AND DON'T ASK ME TO TAKE YOU ON THE HEAVY-SO-POUND, YOU'RE TOO OLD FOR THAT SORT OF STUFF NOW
DARN YOUR EYES, DAD!! YOU'RE MISSIN' OUT ON ALL THE FUN
SO OK, DON'T BE A BABY! IT'S TIME I'VE MADE A MAN OF YOU.
ROLLER COASTER
AHH!
SPOOKHOUSE
EGAD, SIR, THE CARETAKERS "HOUSE OF HORRORS"
YEAH, RIGHT.
YEAH, RIGHT.
...EXCEPT FOR A HORRIBLE CLOWN WITCH THAT KIDNAPS CHILDREN AND THEN DISMEMBERS 'EM UP.
HA! HA! HA!


AAAHHH!!!
ALWAYS RAMBLIN', MAKIN ARE 'EL 'CHANGA TAPION 'AT HOUR
HERE COMETH THE MUMMY!
IF YOU DON'T KNOW HOW TO HAVE FUN, WE MAY AS WELL LEAVE
WHERE'S THE EXIT
OUR
OW!
DO YE CARE TO TEST YOUR AIM
DUCK THERE
OKAY, BUT WE'LL LEAVE AFTERWARDS ALRIGHT?
THERE BE'N NO TIMES BOLTS AND YOU GET ME PIECE

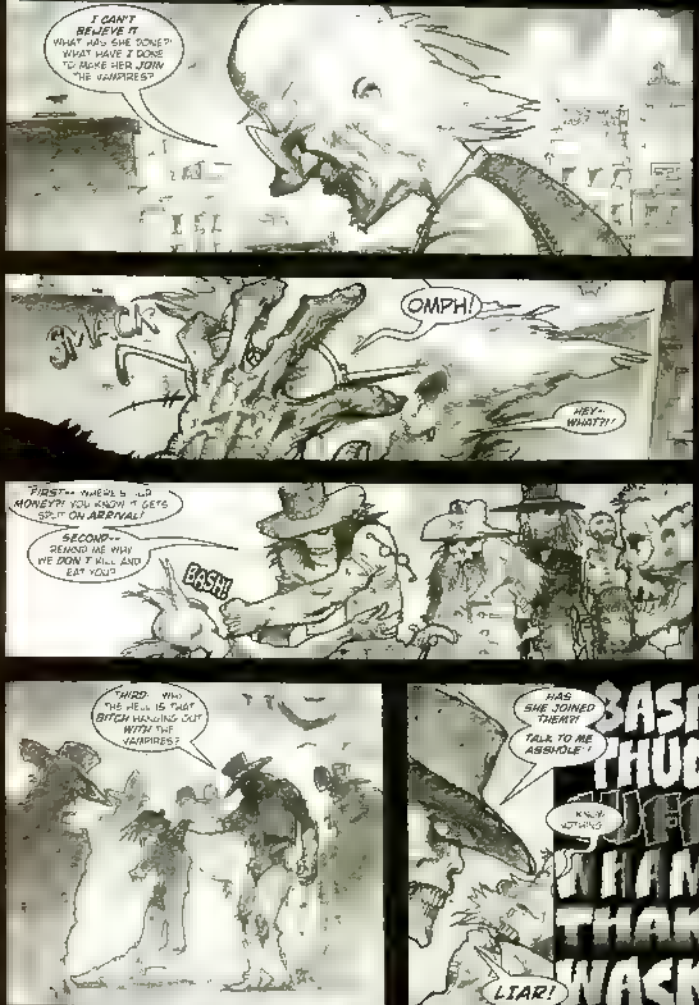
BUT SINCE YOUR NAME WAS CLOSEMORE AS I DID WELL SAY YOU'RE THE WINNER
A HARDY MONSTER!
I REAL AND WHAT DID WIN
I HARDY MONS IS ME YA ALL DAY!
NO AND GET HIM WHILE HE'S BUSY SO FOR YOU BEHIND THOSE CURTAINS

NO, I DON'T WANT TO, DADDY!
DON'T BE STUPID. IT MIGHT BE SOME SORT OF DUMMY
GO ON
NO, DON'T
SHH, ARE THEY GONE?
"I'M, DADDY" AND IT DIDN'T SCARE ME THE SECOND TIME!
OF COURSE NOT. NOW WHO'S A CLEVER BOY, THEN?
IT'S NOT A DUMMY, DAD!
IT REALLY IS A HUGE MONSTER! GO IN AND YOU'LL SEE!
I'M GOING IN TO SEE WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT
"THEY CAN'T PLAY HOCKEY LIKE THIS ON CHRISTMAS!"
AH, SHOW IT TO ME!

I REALIZED I'M A MAN! JUST LIKE YOU WANT ME TO CHEAT!
SURP!
BE MOM! I REALLY WISH HE DIDN'T
SURP!
COME THERE LET'S GO HOME
WHAT YOU TO MEET MY MOMMY AND MY LITTLE BROTHER
SURK
OL BE GONNA ENJOY THEM BE MUCH BE RUDDY

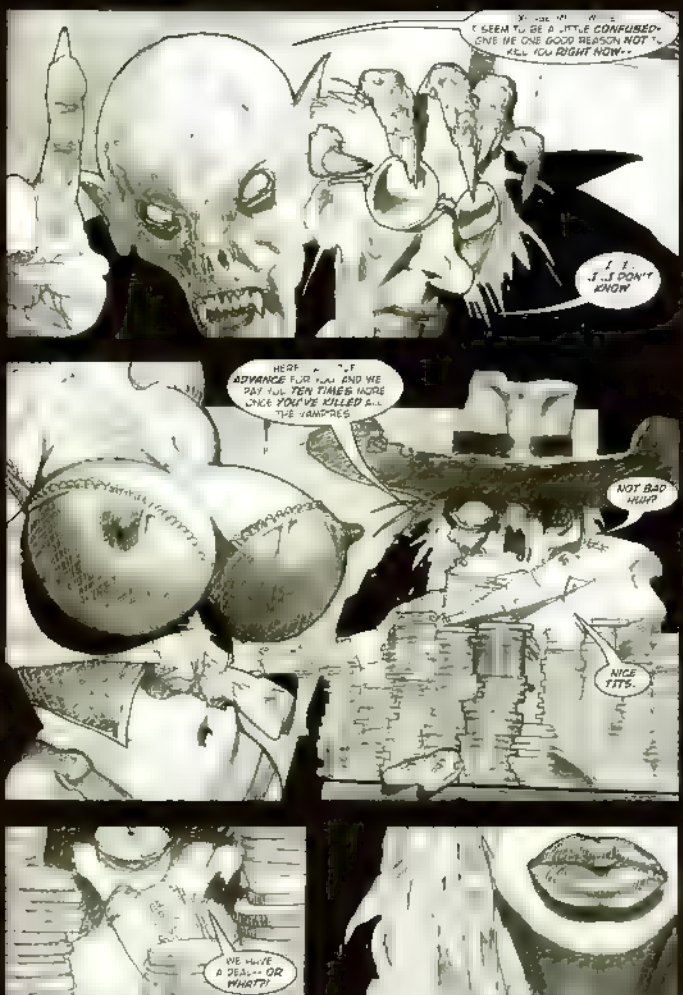
FISTFUL OF BLOOD

DON'T KNOW WHAT FINALLY GOT YOU OVER TO OUR SIDE... BUT YOU'LL BE FARTING THROUGH SILK FROM NOW ON BABY
WE'VE HAD BIG PLANS-- FOR ONE FINAL MASTER PIECE-- ONE BIG HAUL-- THEN WE'RE OUTTA HERE
CAN'T BELIEVE IT
OFF THE BIG CITY AND TO THE BIG TIME, WITH SERIOUS MONEY AND STYLE
YEAH
NEW YORK CITY OR WEST VIRGINIA
WE MADE BIG BIKER CONVENTION IN YOUR TOWN WILL PUT US OVER THE FIVE MILLION MARK
THAT IS IF YOU KILL THE ZOMBIES AND THE MONEY IS ALL OURS
SIMPLE PERFECT PLAN! HEH.
UM. QUICK QUESTION: WHEN'S THE LAST TIME YOU HAD A BATH?


I CAN'T BELIEVE IT
WHAT HAS SHE DONE?! WHAT HAVE I DONE TO MAKE HER JOIN THE VAMPIRES?
SMACK
OMPH!
HEY.. WHAT?!
FIRST-- WHERE'S THE MONEY?! YOU KNOW IT GETS SPLIT ON ARRIVAL!
SECOND-- REMIND ME WHY WE DON'T KILL AND EAT YOU?
BASH!
THIRD: WHO THE HELL IS THAT BITCH HANGING OUT WITH THE VAMPIRES?
HAS SHE JOINED THEM?!
TALK TO ME ASSHOLE!
KNOW NOTHING
LIAR!
BASH
THUD
THAM
THAK
WACK

EXCELLENT... NEED THIS SHIT AND LIKE THIS MONTH
IS SHE THE ONE TO FREE US ALL?
SHE IS ASLEEP
AFTER NOON?
OKAY THEN
SLAMM!
GUESS YOU'RE GOING OUT AGAIN?
HELLO?!!

YEAH- HURRAY! WE...COME BACK TO THE WINNING TEAM!!
SO HUNGRY WHM!
-- BABY-- TAKE SOMETHING OFF!!
OH MAN-- WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON NOW?!!


I SEEM TO BE A LITTLE CONFUSED-
GIVE ME ONE GOOD REASON NOT TO
KILL YOU RIGHT NOW--
I...I...I DON'T KNOW
HERE'S HALF IN ADVANCE FOR YOU AND WE PAY YOU TEN TIMES MORE ONCE YOU'VE KILLED ALL THE VAMPIRES
NOT BAD HUH?
NICE TITS.
WE HAVE A DEAL-- OR WHAT?

the next day...
SHE'S BEEN IN THERE ALL DAY SO QUIET
THIS AIN'T GONNA BE EASY

Dear Jon... etc. Make me as the enemy were outside of town. There's a bunch of zombies homes
OKAY SO WHERE ARE THEY?
SHIT! LOOK!
HEY! -- LOOK AT THESE FREAKS!
SMASH
DADDY?!
AH!!!

HEY!-- WHAT THE FUCK?
NO!!
DON'T EVEN--
WOODEN STAKES?! SHIT!!
SPUK
TAK
HOLD IT!
THIS IS INSANE!-- THERE'S ONLY US WERE
THAT BITCH TRICKED US!!
TO BE CONTINUED...

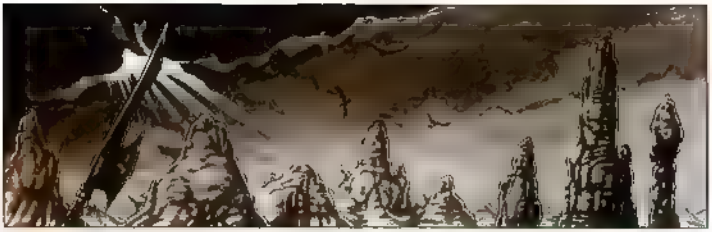
BINOCULARS

WHAT A MAGNIFICENT SPECTACLE! THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THE SEA IN THE FALL. THE WAVES, THE GULLS. PEACE AND QUIET. THE DESERTED BEACH.
KRUU...SSK!
NOT COMPLETELY DESERTED... SOMEONE'S COMING!
I CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES!
BUY A PAIR! GREAT QUALITY! GREAT PRICE!
NOTHING DOING! WHAT WOULD I DO WITH THEM?
YOU COULD LOOK AT THE SEA, MAN! MADE IN TAIWAN: GREAT QUALITY!
I DON'T WANT THEM. NOT EVEN FOR FREE!
TRY 'EM OUT MAN JUST LOOK HOW WELL YOU CAN SEE THAT GULL!
YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS. OKAY LET'S SEE YOUR GULL!

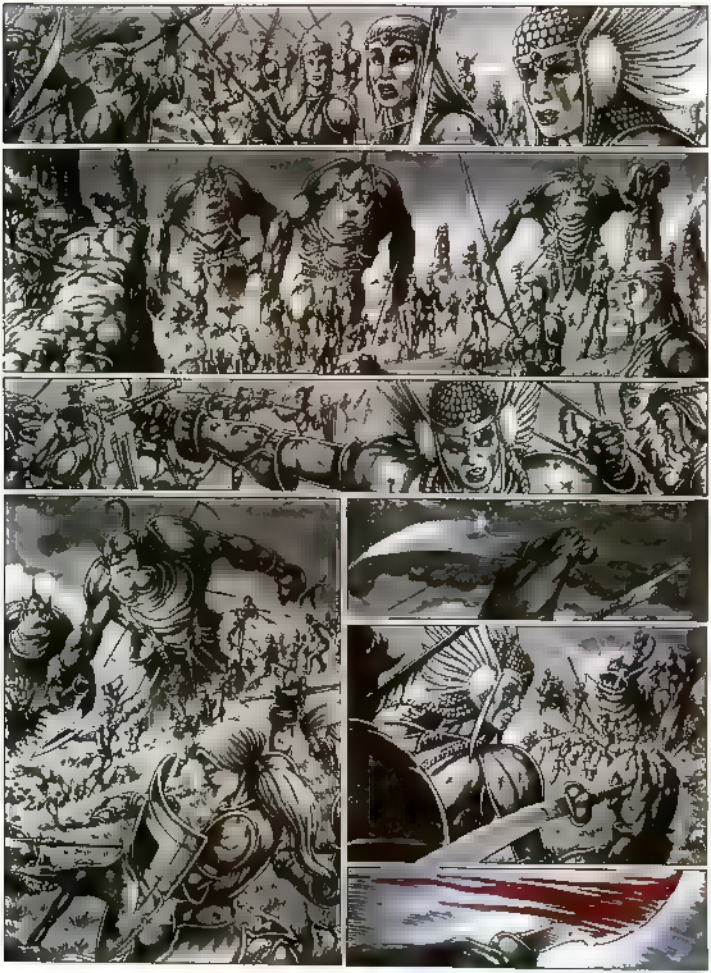
HEY, THOSE TWO ARE PRACTICALLY NAKED! THEY'RE GOING TO FREEZE TO DEATH!
THEY MUST BE RUBBING UP AGAINST EACH OTHER TO RAISE THEIR BODY TEMPERATURE
WOW! HE'S REALLY GOING TO DO IT! AND SHE'S REALLY STACKED
SO, CAN YOU SEE WELL?
CAN YOU SEE WELL HUH
THEY'RE REALLY DOING IT
HE'S GOING TO FUCK HER.
CAN YOU SEE WELL?
HE CAME TO THE BEACH FOR SOME NUDE DIVING
SO, CAN YOU SEE WELL?
THIS BASTARD KEEPS DISTRACTING ME

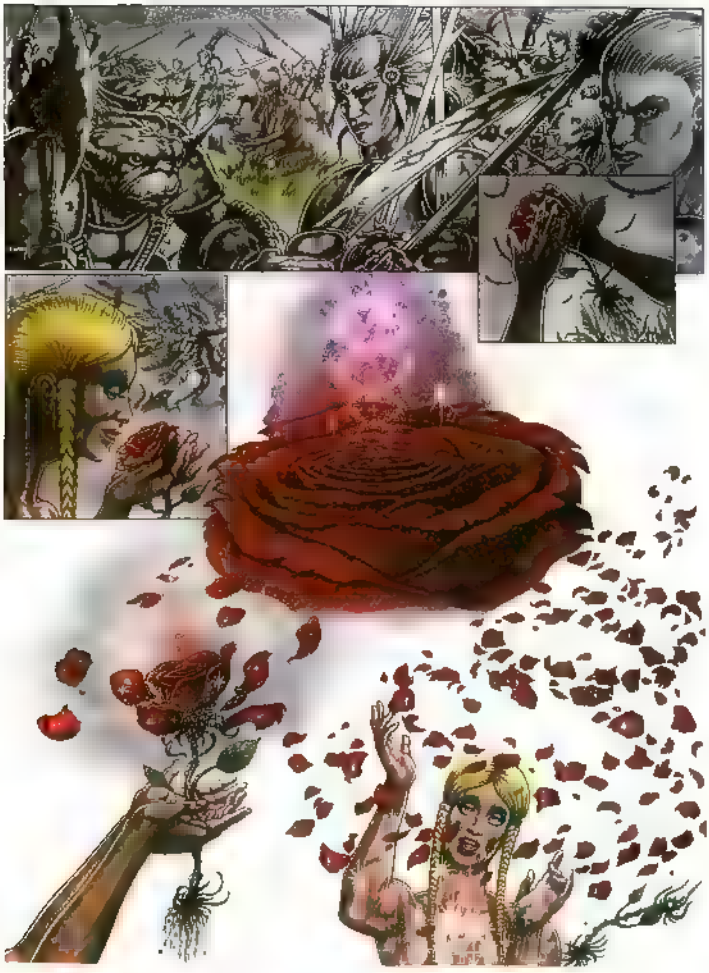
SHE'S GETTING DOWN TO IT NOW!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT MAN?
GOD! THIS IS KILLING ME!
SO ARE YOU GONNA BUY 'EM OR NOT?
HE'S DOING HER! HE'S REALLY DOING HER!
ARE YOU GONNA BUY 'EM OR WHAT?
THEY'RE DOING IT AND SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S GOT A BOX YOU COULD SPEND A VACATION IN!
HEY. MAKE UP YOUR MIND MAN!
JUST LOOK AT THE WHORE'S FACE IF THIS DAMN HAWKER DOESN'T SHUT UP I'M GONNA BREAK HIS JAW.
SHIT! SHIT! SHIT!
THAT'S ENOUGH
LET'S SEE THE COLOR OF YOUR MONEY OLD MAN.
WHA..?

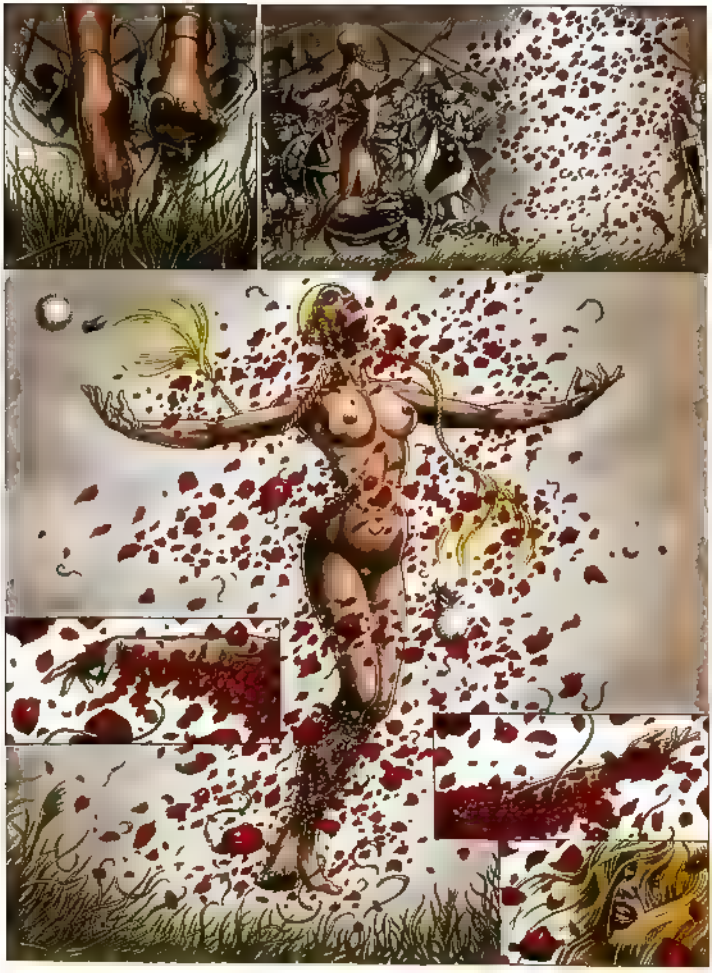
GIMME! I'LL BUY 'EM. HOW MUCH?
100 DOLLARS, MAN!
100 DOLLARS! YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND! THAT'S ARMED ROBBERY!
I'VE ALSO GOT GUNS FOR SALE. GOOD QUALITY AND CHEAP!
I ONLY HAVE 90 DOLLARS!
OKAY LET ME HAVE 'EM, MUSTAFHA!
THAT'S OKAY MAN! MUSTAFHA WILL CUT YOU A DEAL!
SHIT! I DON'T WANT TO MISS ANY OF THIS!
KRRUUAK!
WHERE THE FUCK ARE THEY?! I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYWHERE!
SO THAT'S 90 DOLLARS SPLIT THREE WAYS.



THE KEY TO VALHALLA

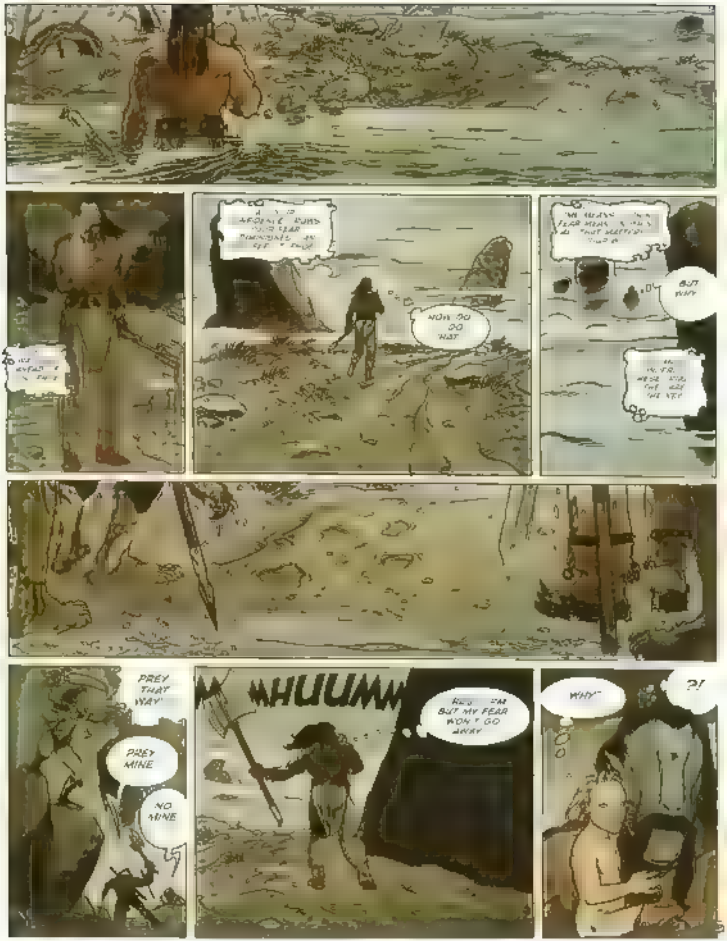






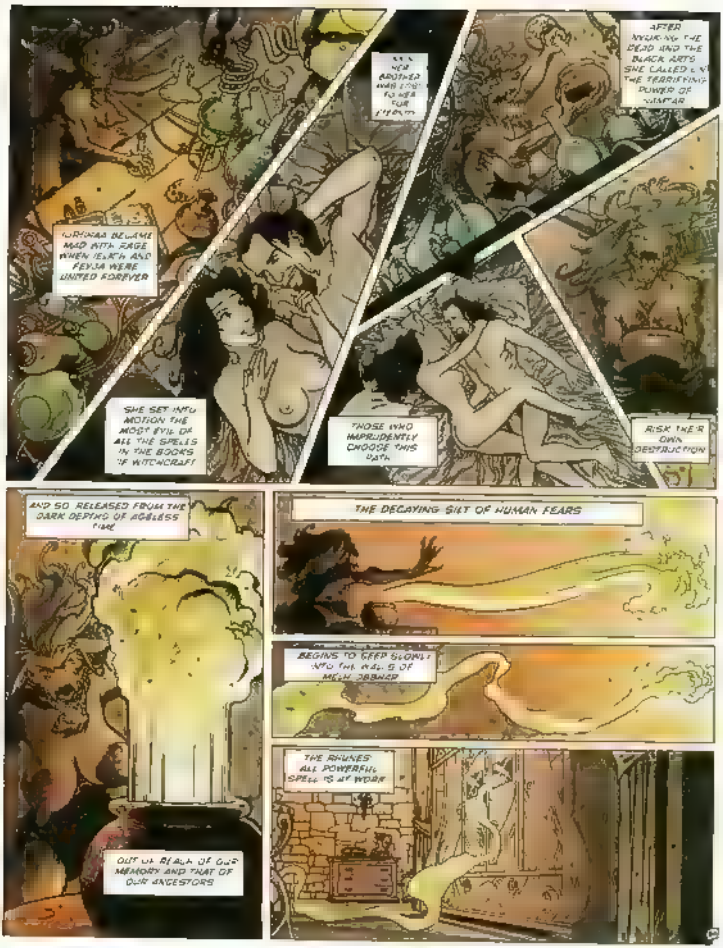
The End

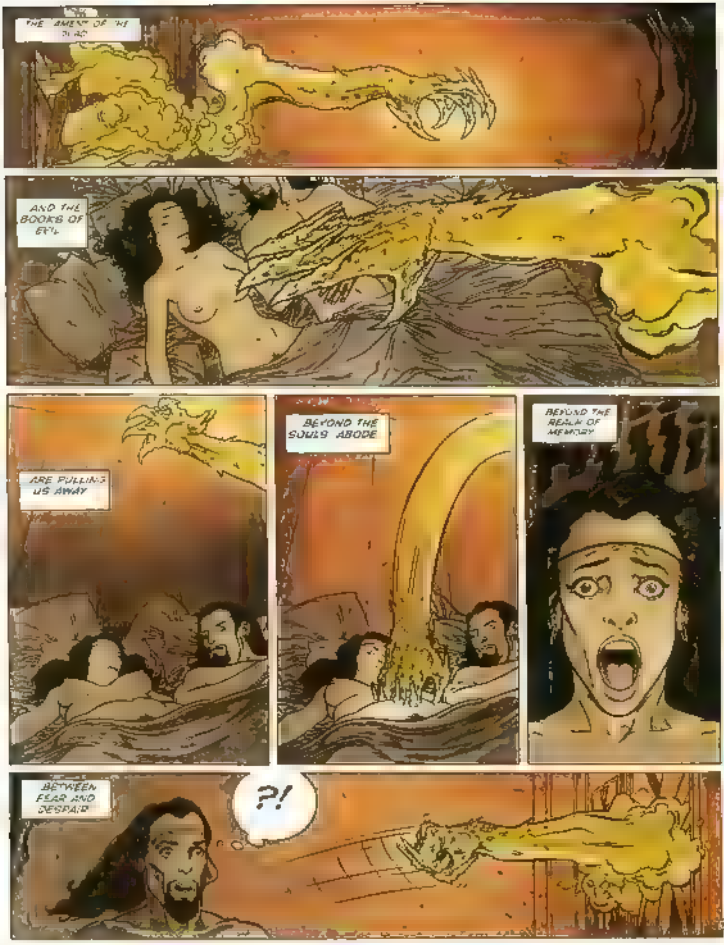
WELL?
UH NOTHING
IF THERE'S NOTHING ON THE RIVERBANKS OR NEARBY CHECK IN THE WATER!
PFFFF! PATHETIC VERMIN
PREY IN WATER
FISH
EAT
MEAT
I'M AFRAID I'M STILL IN DANGER
TRUST ME I'LL PROTECT YOU
COME ME YOU ARE MY SQUIRE


WOW! DO DO THAT
BUT WHY
PREY THAT WAY!
PREY MINE
NO MINE
MHUUMM
REX... I'M BUT MY FEAR WON'T GO AWAY
WHY?
?!

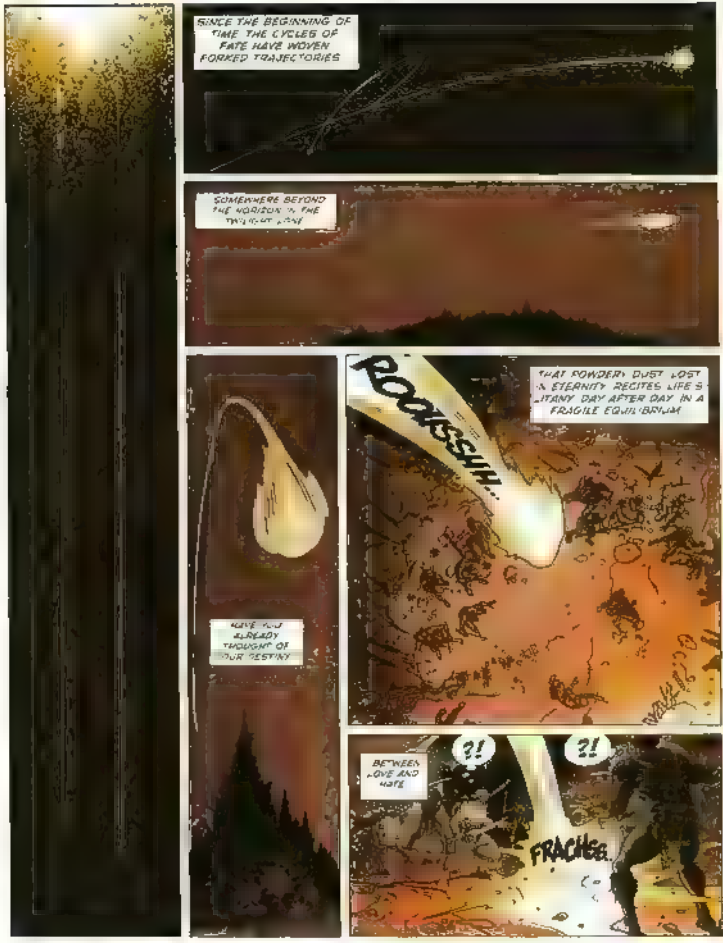
HUMMMMMM
DANGER!

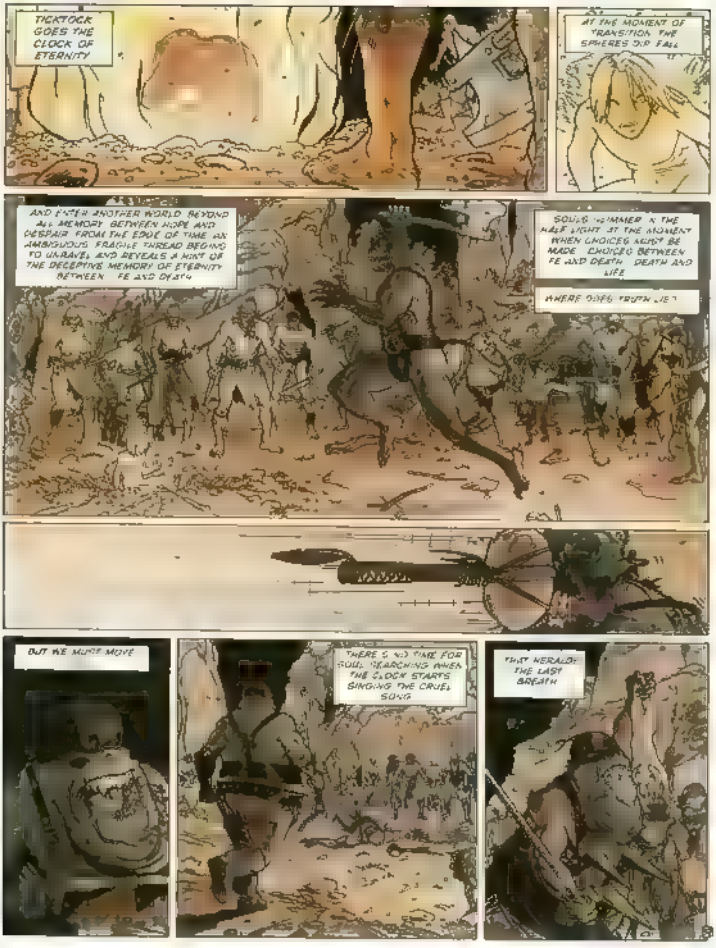
APPEARANCES ARE NOT WHAT THEY SEEM. WE ARE HERE TO GUIDE YOU.
GRRRR PROTECT
KEEP CALM YOU WILL SOON UNDERSTAND
FOR A WHILE MY ENTITIES TRIED TO STOP GHOR'S HORDE
MASTER LUG GAVE US A VERY IMPORTANT SPECIAL MISSION
FROM THE EDGES OF THE EARTH NEW SOURCES OF LIFE ARE BUBBLING UP AND THEY HAVE LED YOU TO US
MASTER LUG PREDICTED THE COMING OF TWO CREATURES
WIDE AND ANOTHER ETUS
BUT FIRST YOU MUST UNDERSTAND


AFTER INVOKING THE DEAD AND THE BLACK ARTS SHE CALLED ON THE TERRIFYING POWER OF ASMATAR
HER BROTHER WAS LYING TO HER FOR THEIR FATHER
HIRKANA BECAME MAD WITH RAGE WHEN ZERATH AND FEXIA WERE UNITED FOREVER
SHE SET INTO MOTION THE MOST EVIL OF ALL THE SPELLS IN THE BOOKS OF WITCHCRAFT
THOSE WHO IMPRUDENTLY CHOOSE THIS PATH
RISK THEIR OWN DESTRUCTION
AND SO RELEASED FROM THE DARK DEPTHS OF AGELESS TIME
THE DECAYING SIFT OF HUMAN FEARS
BEGINS TO CREEP SLOWLY INTO THE HALLS OF MEN UNAWARE
THE RUNES ALL POWERFUL SPELL IS AT WORK
OUT OF REACH OF OUR MEMORY AND THAT OF OUR ANCESTORS


THE AMEN OF THE DEAD
AND THE BOOKS OF EVIL
ARE PULLING US AWAY
BEYOND THE SOULS ABODE
BEYOND THE REALM OF MEMORY
BETWEEN FEAR AND DESPAIR
?!

THE TOWN WALLS.
?!
ECHOED WITH PAIN
VLAMM
AFTER THE DEFEAT SHE ALL HAD BEEN COMMITTED
WHEN ALL HOPE HAD BEEN LOST A FLUTTERING LIGHT TRAVELING THROUGH CENTURIES OF BLACK MAGIC
DEFEATED THE DEMON KNIGHT
OF THE DEVIL'S
AS HE SNATCHED EACH SOUL MAKING THE DESTRUCTIVE MADNESS OF HATRED.
ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT MUST


SINCE THE BEGINNING OF TIME THE CYCLES OF FATE HAVE WOVEN FORKED TRAJECTORIES
SOMEWHERE BEYOND THE HORIZON IN THE TWILIGHT ZONE
HAVE YOU ALREADY THOUGHT OF YOUR DESTINY
ROOAASSHH...
THAT POWDERY DUST LOST IN ETERNITY RECITES LIFE'S STEADY DAY AFTER DAY IN A FRAGILE EQUILIBRIUM
?!
?!
BETWEEN LOVE AND HATE
FRACHEG

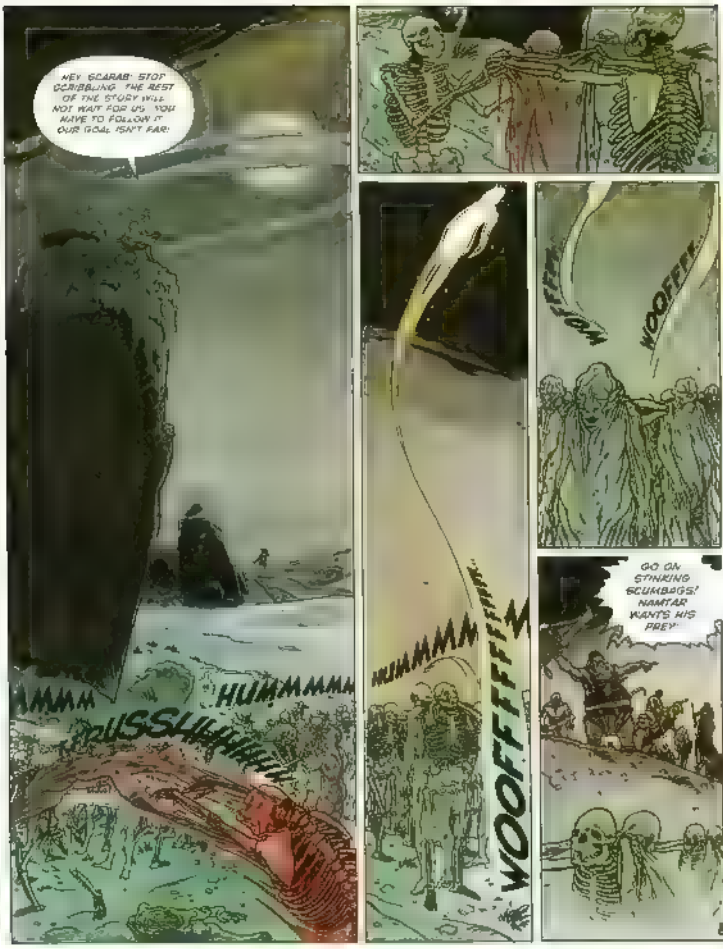

TICKTOCK GOES THE CLOCK OF ETERNITY
AT THE MOMENT OF TRANSITION THE SPHERES DID FALL
AND ENTER ANOTHER WORLD BEYOND ALL MEMORY BETWEEN HOPE AND DESPAIR FROM THE EDGE OF TIME AN AMBIGUOUS FRAGILE THREAD BEGINS TO UNRAVEL AND REVEALS A HINT OF THE DECEPTIVE MEMORY OF ETERNITY BETWEEN FE AND DYATH
SOULS SHIMMER IN THE HALF LIGHT AT THE MOMENT WHEN CHOICES MUST BE MADE CHOICES BETWEEN FE AND DEATH DEATH AND LIFE
WHERE DOES TRUTH LIE?
BUT WE MUST MOVE
THERE S NO TIME FOR SOUL SEARCHING WHEN THE CLOCK STARTS SINGING THE CRUEL SONG
THEY HERALD THE LAST BREATH

BUT SO FAR NOTHING HAS BEEN WRITTEN THE WAY 'S OFTEN LONG BEFORE DEATH BRINGS PEACE AND QUIET
NOT MUCH IS NEEDED
A NEW SONG IN OUR HEARTS
WE ARE CONSTANTLY BEING DRIVEN FARTHER AND FARTHER TO NEW STRUGGLES. NEW BATTLES. NEW VICTORIES
WITCHCRAFT!!!

HE USES [illegible] SPELLS CAN OPEN GATES SPREADING
HIS INSIDIOUS [illegible]
POWER
[illegible] THE [illegible] DOES IT PURSUE THE [illegible]
HE FEEDS ON DECAYING SOULS
FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME STEP BY STEP BIT BY BIT DESTINY HAS SCATTERED
[illegible] THE THIRSTY ANT [illegible]
BUT [illegible] SOME UNLIVED SPARK REMAINS
[illegible] OF THE BEASTS
EVERYTHING CAN STILL [illegible]
COME AHEAD, MEN!!
LET'S HUNT! GHOR IS
HUNGRY!

A NEW QUEST IS ABOUT TO BEGIN. THE TIME TO RESTORE PHOE'S INTEGRITY HAS COME AND HIM IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PROTECT YOU ON YOUR JOURNEY TO MASTER LUG
YOU SEE, SCARAB, I ALWAYS ENJOY LISTENING TO THE GREAT SHAMAN. EVEN IF SOMETIMES ONE GETS LOST IN HIS MEANDERING SPEECHES!
HAS HE EXPLAINED THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT ETUS WILL PLA.. IN ACCOMPLISHING PHOE'S QUEST?
ELDER ONE MEDIA OF BAGAHN'DOOR THE MASTER NELDO MANCER OF EL THE WORLD'S THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN UNDO HUNTER'S TERRIFYING DESIGNS
HUMMMMMMMMM
?!
?!
WORRY THE TIME ALLOTTED TO THE ENTITIES IN THIS PLACE IS RUNNING OUT! YOU MUST RETURN TO BAGAHN'DOOR BEFORE GHOR'S HORDE CAN FINISH THE HUNT

KILL!
PREY!!!
CLAN EAT!
HUMMMMMMMM...
HUMMM
KILL PREY!
NAM YAR!
PREY! MINE!
MMMMMM
EAT 'EM!
!?!
URGLL !!!
CRRSHH...
FRUSHHHHH!


HEY SCARAB! STOP SCRIBBLING! THE REST OF THE STORY WILL NOT WAIT FOR US! YOU HAVE TO FOLLOW IT! OUR GOAL ISN'T FAR!
HUMMMMM
WOOFFF

NAM-TAR'S PREY!
KILL 'EM!
WOORFF! WOARF!
KILL!
DEATH!
GNOR!
KILL 'EM!
EAT!
WOOF!!
GRRR!!
NAMTAR'S PREY!!
DEATH!
ARRGHHH!!!
WOOF!
TROCHHK..
GROARR!!
WOOF!
GRRR!!
GRRR!!
GROARFF!!
UGGHHH!
PREY, MINE!
GROARFF!
GNARF?!

!!...
?!
NAMTAR!!!
YEEOOWW!!...
AAAHRR!! USELESS SHITS!

GHOR!
YOUR FAILURES BORE ME, YOU WORM!
IT'S ABOUT TIME WE CHANGED THINGS, DON'T YOU AGREE?!
RROGRLL!!
UNLESS YOU HAVE SOMETHING TO PROPOSE TO REDEEM YOURSELF?
UUMM, GREAT!... BUT MY PATIENCE IS RUNNING OUT! YOU HAD THREE DAYS. NOW YOU ONLY HAVE TWO...
...JUST TWO!
I CAN FEEL YOUR PRESENCE CLOSE BY. I'M STILL AFRAID AND YET MY FEAR IS DIFFERENT.
YOUR FEAR IS A FOREBODING OF THE UNKNOWN THAT AWAITS YOU.

HEY! DO YOU THINK HE CAN HEAR YOU, SCARAB?
MASTER LUD! MASTER LUD! THEY'RE HERE!
BRRRRR
LET'S GO IN. THE DOOR WILL CLOSE QUICKLY.
MASTER LUD, I'VE SUCCESSFULLY ACCOMPLISHED MY TASK. I HAVEN'T LEFT ANYTHING OUT. THE CHAPTER ON THE SPELL OF THE RHUNES IS UP TO DATE...
FINE, SCRYDA.
AH THE WAY, MASTER LUD, I MUST REMIND YOU SCARAB'S FEELINGS ARE MUCH LIKELY HAVE TAKEN HIM AWAY FROM THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH... YOU HAD MAPPED OUT FOR HIM AND...
LATER, SCRYDA. LATER. FHOE'S FATE CANNOT WAIT.
THE POWER OF THE EVIL SPELL WAS DERIVED FROM OF ALL SIX SENSES. EACH SENSE IS REPRESENTED BY THE POWER OF THE RHUNES.
I'M GOING TO UNDO THE SPELL. THIS WILL ENABLE YOU TO FIND YOUR DOUBLE, SINCE THE CHOICE HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE...
HEY! WHAT'S THAT?!!
RRAAiiRGHHHH!!
EVIL IS ALREADY HUNTING !
CLAN EAT!!
PREY THAT WAY!
?!